

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Dare to care
The doctors who heal the victims of torture

Big knits
High fashion: oiled wools and heavy sweaters

Post Gillick
Why the DHSS should set up youth clinics for sex advice

Hot Spurs?
David Miller on the decline of Tottenham Hotspur

Portfolio

The £20,000 prize in The Times Portfolio weekly competition on Saturday was shared by two winners, Mrs E Rhodes, of Newcastle upon Tyne and Mrs Sue Perry of Woodley, near Reading. Saturday's £2,000 daily prize was won by Mr R M Bradshaw of Heston, Oxford.

Portfolio list, page 14; rules and how to play, information service, back page.

Iran boards US ship in arms search

Iran's navy stopped the US freighter President Taylor in international waters and sent armed men on board to see if war materials were being carried for Iraq. It was the first boarding of a US merchant ship during the six-year Gulf war and Washington expressed "serious concern".

Heart success

A man aged 53 who received a heart transplant on Friday after 12 hours on a "piggy-back" pump had not been told that he had received a transplant, the Harley Street Clinic, London, said.

Tilt to left

The European Parliament meets today for the first time since the EEC's enlargement to 12 members. Spain and Portugal's socialist MEPs will tilt the balance of power leftward.

Solidarity arrest

Polish secret police have arrested in Gdansk Mr Bogdan Borusewicz, a Solidarity underground leader, who has been on the run since 1981.

Shuttle lift-off

After seven delays the shuttle Columbia finally blasted off on time from the Kennedy space centre in Florida on a five-day scientific mission.

Women's chance

More women stand a better chance of becoming members of Parliament as the result of efforts by the main political parties to attract female candidates.

Top schoolgirl

The new captain at Westminster School is a girl, for the first time in the school's 400-year history. Lynda Stuart's appointment as head girl starts today.

Tin initiative

Mrs Thatcher has written to the heads of government of International Tin Council, member countries to end the tin crisis.

China clean-up

Younger party officials in China's reformist leadership team are spearheading an anti-corruption drive.

Transplant wait

An 8 per cent fall in the number of kidney transplants last year has sent the waiting list for the operation to record levels.

Card climbdown

The Government has backed down from its demands that football clubs should implement a national membership card scheme as a way of containing hooliganism.

White wins title

Jimmy White came back from the brink of defeat to beat Cliff Thorburn 13-12 in the final of the Mercantile Credit Classic snooker tournament.

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Westland prepares for critical two days

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

The Westland affair moves into its critical stages today and tomorrow as the helicopter company prepares for its shareholders' meeting and the Commons returns to concerted pressure for Mr Leon Brittan, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, to respond to the allegation that he made a "naked threat" at a meeting with Sir Raymond Lygo, chairman of British Aerospace, last Wednesday.

In the wake of Mr Michael Heseltine's charge last Thursday that Mr Brittan had put pressure on BAE to pull out of the Anglo-European rescue bid for the Westland helicopter company, Mr Brittan made his first public statement on Saturday.

He said that the "key point" of his message to Sir Raymond had been his concern over anti-American statements made during the Westland affair, which might damage BAE in the United States.

But he added: "I also said it was in the national interest that the whole matter should be resolved as quickly as possible."

The Press Association news agency last night quoted a source close to the BAE board who said: "I was astonished to receive a telephone call on Wednesday night from an equally astonished and somewhat shaken chief executive, saying he had been subjected to a naked threat in Mr Brittan's office. He said so strongly about the manner in which the threat had been made that he felt he had to report it to his board that night."

One authoritative source said yesterday that there was no doubt that a threat had been made, and that the telephone lines had been "rummaging" that night as the message was driven home to BAE board members. Mr Brittan was saying nothing yesterday.

But the challenge to the Government's version of events went further when Mr Heseltine said in an interview on London Weekend Television's *Westland World* that he had checked with Cabinet colleagues about the Prime Minister's promise to hold a meeting of ministers on December 15, to make a judgment between the United Technologies-Fiat and possible Anglo-European bids for a stake in Westland.

The Prime Minister has written to Mr Brian Sedgmore, Labour MP for Hackney South and Shoreditch, with a definition of collective responsibility. She says: "Decisions reached by the Cabinet or cabinet committee are binding on all members of the Government. Nothing that has happened in recent weeks has altered my view on this matter."

Mr Heseltine told *The Times* last night: "If there had been decisions, I would have accepted them or gone." The cancellation of the December 13 meeting meant there was "no ability to find the collective will of colleagues."

He also condemned the anonymous counter-attacks being launched on him from Whitehall sources. He said on *Westland World*: "I do not have ministers standing up for policies and exposing colleagues or weaknesses in my case, we have unidentified sources. We have no documents, no statements, no piece of paper we can examine, we just have whispers."

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Cuckney may call for adjournment

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

Sir John Cuckney, the Westland chairman, indicated yesterday that he is likely to call for an adjournment of the Westland shareholders' meeting scheduled for tomorrow before it votes on the special resolutions that are necessary for Sikorsky and Fiat to take a minority stake in the helicopter manufacturer.

The board would then recast its agreement with the American-Italian group.

On the Channel 4 *Business Programme* Sir John said: "There are two considerations: one is the likelihood of getting the special resolutions through, the other is whether, with all the political trauma and drama, it would not be wiser to have a cooling down period."

The count of shareholders' proxies yesterday proved inconclusive. After proxies representing 42 per cent of Westland shares had been counted, Sir John had support from 38 per cent, while 4 per cent had voted against.

This suggests that with help from some institutional investors who will vote at the meeting, the board is likely to win majority support for its plan, but not the 75 per cent vote needed for the special resolutions.

Once the meeting is adjourned, Sir John is likely to negotiate with Sikorsky's Mr Bill Paul to vary the deal so that it is cast in a form that requires support from only a simple majority of shareholders.

The Westland board and its advisers and representatives of

Sikorsky were meeting once the count had been completed to review their options. Sir John said that "people have become understandably rigid in thinking the only solution is a capital reconstruction of the type we've put forward, but there are other ways of doing it."

Mr Paul said that Sikorsky would reassess its position if it became clear the resolutions would fail. He said the American helicopter company would not rule out withdrawing. But this would be unlikely if a majority of shareholders favoured the American link.

Mr Alan Bristow, who has bought 11 per cent of Westland

Heseltine support 2
Brittan reply 2

and leads a group voting 17 per cent against the American deal, said that he had asked Sir John to put the rival European offer to shareholders, when he had had the chance to look at it more deeply. But "I do not think for a second he will support it now."

Sir John said it would be logical for British Aerospace and GEC to bid for Westland if they had such high hopes of the company's future. But this seems unlikely at the moment.

An adviser to Westland said that any bidder would have to put up a total of not less than £150 million to buy the company and put in new capital. This makes such a proposition unattractive as there is unlikely to be an early return on the money.

Gadafi takes to his tent for some cosy showmanship

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, Libya

Colonel Gadafi has done it again. Not content with an interview in the barley fields and a full-scale press conference at his palace, the Libyan leader invited six women journalists for a cosy tête-à-tête in his Bedouin tent surrounded by four of his seven children and his wife Safia. It was here that he once greeted Tito and Castro. So why not President Reagan, one of the reporters asked?

"Why not?" the colonel replied. "I am inviting Reagan through you. If Reagan comes here, he would change his mind. He would see that I don't live in trenches (sic) wear hand-grenades in my belt or a pistol. The Americans think I don't laugh or smile, that I have no family..." And so a new headline was created for the world's press and television: Gadafi invites Reagan to his Bedouin tent.

The master of publicity has indeed got quite a tent. Pitched on the sand near his palace, its patchwork, quite liberally covered in quotations from his *Green Book*, it is not perhaps the home of any ordinary man of the desert. It is fitted out with electric heaters, a television, three green telephones and a video system.

Yet the photographs which the six women took showed an apparently happy family man, his arms around his only daughter, Ayesha, aged eight.

"She is like me - she likes to make speeches" he said.

It was indeed unprecedented even for Colonel Gadafi to give such access to westerners. Pointing to his three sons, Khamis, aged two, Saadi, aged



Mr Michael Heseltine yesterday at the Battersea heliport, south London, before leaving for his home in Oxfordshire (Photograph: John Manning)

US to fetch Britons who trekked to Pole

By Gregory Neale

The three Britons who trekked 883 miles to the South Pole in the footsteps of the ill-fated Scott expedition will today begin the first leg of their journey home.

They will be taken to the US research base at McMurdo Sound, nearly 900 miles away, where they will be reunited with colleagues from their support ship, the Southern Quest, which was crushed and sank amid the polar ice on Saturday.

The expedition's success in reaching the Pole was hailed by Sir Peter Scott, Captain Scott's son and one of the venture's patrons, as "a fantastic achievement".

There was, however, criticism from various quarters that the private expedition had put strain on official research personnel involved in the rescue and return of the Britons.

The three who made the trek, Mr Robert Swan, aged 28, from Darbus; Mr Roger Mear, 35, from Birmingham; and Mr Gareth Wood, 33, who was born in Edinburgh and lives in Canada, got to the South Pole at 11.53pm local time (11.53am GMT) on Saturday. Last night they were at the US research station at the Pole.

The expedition had planned to retrieve them using a light aircraft taken to the Antarctic by the Southern Quest.

The Britons will now be collected from the Pole by a US Hercules aircraft, which will take them to McMurdo.

The expedition secretary, Miss Amanda Lovejoy said plans for their retrieval would be completed today at a meeting with officials of the US National Science Foundation, headed by Mr Walter Selig.

Mr Selig said the sinking of the Southern Quest had borne out criticism by official Antarctic research programmes of private expeditions.

Sir Peter told *The Times* last night that the expedition's success had been a great achievement.

He sent congratulations to Mr Swan.

Of the critics, he said: "It is very easy to criticize... but you can go too far in saying that the Antarctic should be a no-go area other than for official research programmes."

Leading article, page 11
In Scott's footsteps, back page

Petrol booby-trap set at Tottenham, say riot police

By Robin Young

A police report on the riot in Tottenham, north London, during which Police Constable Keith Blacklock was killed with machetes, accuses employees of the Greater London Council and Haringey borough police committees of "gross distortion" in their reports of the events.

The police report denies that police made any attempt to seal off the Broadwater Farm estate before the riot last October, or to enter it once the riot had begun. It suggests that areas of the estate had been flooded with petrol to use as a booby-trap against the police.

"Any concerted effort to advance into the body of the estate (in which the lakes of petrol were seen) could well have resulted in death or serious injury," the report says.

"Subsequent inquiries revealed allegations that some basement garage areas on the estate had been flooded with petrol, for the alleged purpose of use in the event of an incursion by police."

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Michael Richards, who is presenting the report to the Haringey Police Community Consultative Group, said at the weekend: "We suggest that if police had tried to enter the estate, either deliberately or accidentally those lakes of petrol would have been set on fire with disastrous consequences."

The report emphasizes police efforts to defuse the situation

after the death of Mrs Cynthia Jarratt while her home was being searched. No arrest was made during a rowdy demonstration outside Tottenham police station, and it was decided that no officers should be sent to Broadwater Farm unless it was necessary to respond to emergency calls.

Though five genuine 999 calls were received between 3.20 and 4.20 pm on the day of the riot, when youths were running through the estate banging on doors, no officers were sent because it was established by telephone that no damage had been done. But meanwhile a Pc Caton, answering another 999 call on the fringe of the estate, was hit in the back with a paving stone which it was subsequently discovered, ruptured his spleen.

There came "a period of absolute quiet, lasting nearly two hours" during which the Broadwater Farm Youth Association. Of claims that the meeting planned a "peaceful" demonstration, the report says: "Given the extent to which the youths were subsequently found to have armed themselves with petrol bombs, knives and machetes, doubt must exist about the validity of this claim."

At 6.25 after what is now believed to have been a hoax 999 call, an Inspector Hudson went to investigate, and two black youths smashed his car

Personal tax cuts a priority for Budget

By David Smith

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, and his Treasury ministers agreed over the weekend that lower personal taxation will be a Budget priority.

It was recognized, however, that a return of the financial pressures that forced a one-point rise in base rates last week could necessitate an austerity Budget.

The meeting, held annually at Chevening, Kent, set the Treasury's tax priority both for the Budget and the medium term.

Final budget decisions are to be made late next month, when the results of the Treasury's latest economic forecast will be available to the Chancellor.

This year, oil prices held the key to the scope for the tax cuts. A collapse in oil prices could eliminate the £2 billion cuts which the City economists estimate are available at present.

The Institute of Directors warned the Chancellor that without tax cuts Britain's economic growth rate could fall from the present rate of up to 3 per cent to nearer 1 per cent.

Without the cuts, consumer spending was unlikely to reverse any slowdown in industrial investment growth after capital allowances are withdrawn, the institute said.

Business expansion, page 15

Township leader stabbed to death

Johannesburg (AFP, AP) - The leader of a black township near here was murdered and his home burnt down just hours before his scheduled meeting with the United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr Chester Crocker.

The meeting was to have taken place during a tour Mr Crocker made of East Rand townships in the company of the right Rev Simon Nkomo, Anglican Suffragan Bishop of Johannesburg East.

Mr Crocker arrived here early yesterday after a three-day visit to Luanda. He was escorted around the black townships of Duduzu, Kwathema and Kettle-hong east of here by Bishop Desmond Tutu of Johannesburg, who showed him houses which had been destroyed in communal fire-bombing and grenade attacks over the past six months.

Bishop Nkomo also told Mr Crocker how community leader, Chief Ampie Mayisa was dragged out of his home in the nearby township of Leandra on Saturday night and stabbed to death, while his house was set alight and destroyed.

Chief Mayisa's son, Joseph, said the men who killed his father were members of the predominantly Zulu group, Inkatha, which has long been hostile to township radicals.

Later yesterday the partially-burnt body of Chief Mayisa was found by his son in nearby open country. Police confirmed that he had died of stab wounds.

The band of Hackers also set alight the house of a second member of the delegation that was to have met Mr Crocker, Mr Abel Mkhabinde. He escaped but decided not to attend the meeting, though Mr Crocker spoke with other black opponents of South Africa's white minority Government.

While Bishop Nkomo was at Mr Mkhabinde's house reporters said a dozen young blacks appeared, saying they had killed Chief Mayisa and were still hunting for Mr Mkhabinde. They denied that they were members of Inkatha, and justified the killing by saying they disagreed with the activist methods of the two leaders.

"We are not members of Inkatha as most residents believe," one of the gang said. "If they say so (that they are not Inkatha), then we have got to believe them," Bishop Nkomo said.

● Zulu warning: The Inkatha movement served notice this weekend that it would challenge the declaration by the outlawed African National Congress to mark 1986 by expanding its activities into a full-scale "people's war" (Ray Kennedy writes).

Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, leader of the movement and chief minister of the Kwa Zulu Bantustan, accused the ANC of attempting to hog power.

Hint of change, page 6

Advertising by dentists 'still too restricted'

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Dentists have come under renewed pressure from the Government to advertise their charges for private treatment, even though significant relaxations have been agreed in the rules covering advertising by dentists.

The General Dental Council relaxed its ban on advertising last November by allowing dentists to advertise items such as surgery hours.

It rejected, however, recommendations from the Office of Fair Trading, supported by Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, that dentists should advertise prices for private treatment and state that a full price list was available.

The council's only concession was to allow dentists to advertise the charge for an initial private consultation to estimate the cost.

Sir Frank Lawton, president of the council, has been told by Mr Hayhoe that the changes do not go far enough.

The office recommended that at a minimum, dentists should advertise charges for an examination, a simple filling, a full set of resin dentures and a gold crown, to make it easier for patients to shop around.

Dentists argue that it is misleading to advertise prices, as estimates of the cost of treatment cannot be made before an examination.

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12, and Saef el-Arab, aged four, he said he wanted them to be doctors in Africa, when they grew up. He said he remembered how his own brothers and sisters had died of malaria because there were no medical facilities in Libya under Italian colonial rule.

He was asked why he chose to speak so exclusively to women: "I would like to see a world in which men and women are equal," he said. "I want to see women free. It's a man's world and I want to change that."

It was indeed unprecedented even for Colonel Gadafi to give such access to westerners. Pointing to his three sons, Khamis, aged two, Saadi, aged

Dutch alert widens, page 6

More women have a good chance of being elected to Parliament

By Sheila Beardall

Campaigns by the main political parties to attract more women candidates have given a growing number of them a good chance of becoming members of Parliament.

So far of the 670 candidates selected for the next general election 85 are women.

This is proportionally only slightly higher than the June 1983 General Election figures of 2,579 candidates of which 276 were women. But more women have been chosen for winnable seats.

Four out of the five Conservative women candidates picked are likely to be elected - Miss Emma Nicholson, one of the party's five vice-chairmen will be fighting Devon West and Torridge where Sir Peter Mills has a majority of 12,351, and Miss Ann Widdicombe has recently been selected to stand for Maidstone where the Conservatives have a majority of 7,226.

Miss Nicholson has been given the task of encouraging more women to come forward by the Prime Minister, who has not always been seen as a great supporter of other women.

"The Prime Minister and I

have discussed this issue at great length in recent months and as a result I have launched a campaign to try to attract more younger women candidates", she said. "Mrs Thatcher is very pleased with this and has urged me on".

There were now 100 women on the list of acceptable candidates compared with only eight when she was looking for a seat to fight, she added.

The Labour party, with only 11 of the 25 women MPs, has also been actively seeking female candidates. It can now boast 51 women out of 330 selections. Many have a good chance of winning and could more than double the female representation in the Labour benches.

Three women MPs standing down are Mrs Judith Hart, Clydesdale, Mrs Renee Shurr, Wolverhampton North East, and Miss Joan Maynard, Sheffield, Brightside, and men have been selected to replace them. But three former Labour women MPs hope to get back to Parliament. They are Mrs Audrey Wise, defending a Labour majority of 6,978 at Preston, Miss Joan Lester,

contesting Eccles, with a Labour majority of 6,005, and Mrs Ann Taylor, selected for Dewsbury which the Conservatives hold with a 2,086 majority.

Two other candidates confident of becoming MPs are Miss Diane Abbott, picked for the safe Labour seat of Hackney North and Stoke Newington, and Miss Hilary Armstrong, who will be contesting Durham North West, where her father has been the Labour MP for 21 years.

Miss Joy Mostyn, chairwoman of the National Labour Women's Committee, said she had written to every constituency party stressing the need for women to be shortlisted.

Some constituencies had taken this to heart, with Westminster North, held by the Conservatives by 1,710 votes, selecting Miss Jenny Edwards from an all-female shortlist.

The Liberal party has a policy of including at least two women in every shortlist of between six and nine. Together with the SDP it has selected 29 women candidates out of a total of 276 so far. Those in with a chance include Miss Pamela Whittle, chosen to contest the Conservative majority of 1,797 at Kingswood, and Miss Sue Slipman, a former president of the National Union of Students, picked for Hayes and Harlington, which has a Conservative majority of 4,234.

Mrs Shirley Williams president of the SDP, is hoping to be selected by the Alliance to fight Cambridge, where the Conservative MP, Mr Robert Rhodes James, has a majority of 5,968.

Number of parliamentary candidates selected and, in brackets, how many are women:

Conservative	Labour	SDP	Liberal
44 (8)	280 (57)	120 (19)	158 (14)



Miss Emma Nicholson has the task of encouraging women



Miss Joan Lester is planning a comeback as MP for Eccles

British firms recruiting in South Africa

Fourteen British companies are offering jobs in Britain to expatriates in South Africa, many of whom are clamouring to escape the political turmoil and come home.

Allied Dunbar and Legal & General, the Insurance Companies, Hoskyns, the Computer Software Manufacturer and Rediffusion are among the 14.

Most of the others are not identified in the recruiting drive, offering 150 jobs, which was yesterday in the *Sunday Times*, Johannesburg. More advertisements are scheduled next week in papers in Cape Town and Durban.

Choice of frigate design is heavily criticized

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

The Prime Minister will next month receive a report that is expected to be highly critical of the way in which the Royal Navy chose the design of its next generation of frigates, the Duke class, the first of which is already under construction.

An unofficial inquiry led by Lord Hill-Norton, Admiral of the Fleet and former Chief of the Defence staff, and former Chairman of Nato's military committee, was set up last spring to look into the matter.

The inquiry arose from a controversy about the rejection of a radical new design, the S-90, which was considerably

shorter and fatter than conventional frigate designs, or than the design for the Duke class.

The case for the S-90 had been vigorously argued by Mr David Giles, of Thornycroft-Giles, boat and yacht designers. But an important element in the defeat of the S-90 was an adverse report by an expert advisory committee.

Supporters of the S-90 design, however, argued that the report was merely a result of traditionalists' closing ranks against a radical new ideal. Three more Duke class frigates are due to be ordered by the Ministry of Defence

University scientists fight cash cuts

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The low morale of British university scientists is reflected in an unprecedented fashion today with the launching of a campaign called "Save British Science".

More than 1,500 scientists, including eight Nobel laureates and 40 other fellows of the Royal Society, have placed an advertisement in *The Times*, at a cost of £5,500, which draws attention to their dilemma.

Their campaign coincides with a wider protest by the Association of University Teachers, which has called for a one-day strike on Wednesday over pay and underfunding of universities in general.

The action to "save" British science comes after a real decrease in recent years of university income of at least 15 per cent, according to Professor Joseph Lamb, chairman of the Save British Science campaign and professor of physiology at St Andrews University.

A further cut of 10 per cent, phased over five years, imposed by the Department of Education and Science, was the final straw.

For the past four months universities have been drawing up lists of priority subjects, which will be supported at any cost, and subjects which will be let go. In the shake-up university departments are expected to close.

The move to protect research was made by a group of scientists who believe that irrevocable damage lies ahead for the future of innovative industries and teaching.

Scientists supporting the campaign include the Nobel prize-winner Professor Antony Hewish, the Cambridge astronomer; Professor Dorothy Hodgkin, the Oxford crystallographer; Sir John Kendrew and Dr César Milstein, both Cambridge molecular biologists; Professor Nikolaas Tinbergen, the Oxford ethologist; Professor Maurice Wilkins the Kings College London University biophysicist; Sir Nevill Martin, a Cambridge physicist; and Professor Abdul Salam, the Imperial College mathematician.

'Mr Fish' dies

J. Carl Riss, known as "Mr Fish", who built a trawler fleet of 60 ships, thought to be the world's biggest in the late 1950s, has died in Grimsby, aged 84.

He gave his name to Riss, the British frozen food brand.

Motor fair hope

The South of England Agricultural Society wants to have planning controls lifted so that it can hold events such as car boot sales and motor fairs at its showground at Ardingly, West Sussex.



Columbia finally blasts off

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The space shuttle Columbia finally made a spectacular dawn blast-off yesterday on a five-day scientific mission postponed seven times, mainly because of mechanical problems and bad weather.

The remodelled Columbia, oldest of the four US space shuttles, has just undergone an 18-month technical overhaul. Its launch was scheduled originally for October 18, but because of so many frustrating last-minute postponements - four in five days last week - its voyage had been nicknamed "mission impossible". Yesterday, however, it took off from the Kennedy space centre in Florida exactly on time at 11.55am (GMT).

Lucky charms were put around the entrance to the cabin of the spacecraft. The crew of seven included physicist and astronomer, Steven Hawley, aged 34, who was on the shuttle Discovery flight in 1984 which had six launch postponements.

Also on board is Congressman William Nelson (Democrat, Florida), who is chairman of the House of Representatives sub-committee that oversees NASA's budget. He is the second Congressman to fly in a shuttle. Senator Jake Garn (Republican, Utah), was on the shuttle mission last April. Another crew member is Franklin Chang-Diaz, aged 35,



Congressman William Nelson leading the other crew members on their way to Columbia's launch-pad, where a successful blast-off ended a string of delays.

a scientist who was born in Costa Rica and became the first Hispanic-American to fly in space.

Columbia, after nine hours of take-off was due to deploy a new generation of \$50 million (£34 million) telecommunications satellite for RCA American Communications.

The astronauts will also make the first close observations from space of Halley's Comet.

The satellite will provide direct-to-home television, programme distribution and satellite master antenna television for hotels, apartment houses, other multi-unit dwellings and institutions in the United States.

Haiti tense after call for national strike

Port-au-Prince (AFP) - Unsigned leaflets calling for a nationwide general strike were distributed here less than a week after the Haitian Government closed schools and universities and pledged rigorous repression of "illegal acts".

Protests against the regime of President-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier have gained momentum since November 23 when security forces killed four people, three of them students, at Gonaves, 90 miles north of Port-au-Prince.

The Army and the civilian militia known as the Tontons Macoutes have been alerted to "protect lives and goods".

Prostitute wins court appeal

Lausanne (Reuters) - The Swiss Supreme Court ruled that a Zurich court was wrong to deny a prostitute compensation for lost earnings after she was injured seriously in a car accident in 1971.

She had paid tax and national insurance contributions and had the same rights as an ordinary citizen, the higher court declared. Her claim was for £750,000 for medical costs, compensation and lost earnings until her 45th birthday in 1989, but she seems unlikely to get the full amount.

Court ruling on border war

Amsterdam - Burkina Faso and Mali, the two former French colonies in West Africa which waged brief war in December, have been given until the end of the month to agree on a demarcation line behind which they must withdraw their forces (Robert Schull writes).

Failing this, the International Court of Justice in The Hague gave warning that it will itself designate a temporary border.

Fatal walk

Hjoerring (Reuters) - A man and his two-year-old daughter were found frozen to death after 400 yards from their home after a snowstorm, Danish police said. He had abandoned his car and started walking.

Snack shoot-out

Karachi (Reuters) - Three people were killed and nine wounded when a gunfight developed after students refused to pay hawkers for food and cigarettes at the railway station at Larkana, Sindh province.

Crazed husband

Arlington, Texas (AFP) - An American under treatment for alcohol and drug addiction took his wife hostage, killed a woman and injured a man and finally shot himself dead after learning that his wife wanted a divorce.

Jail battle

Pendleton (AFP) - One prisoner was stabbed to death and 19 other prisoners and guards injured in a riot which broke out in the gymnasium at Indiana state prison here. The second outbreak of violence in a week.

Gloom grows in Jamaica as troubles pile up

From Alan Tomlinson, Kingston

Growing economic hardship and rising opposition to the conservative Government of Mr Edward Seaga appear to be heading Jamaica into a year of troubles.

Unrest on the island, which erupted in rioting and a general strike in 1985, "could very well get worse" according to the United States political risk analysts, Frost and Sullivan.

The appearance of Jamaica in the firm's annual list of potential troublespots was the latest item of bad news for Mr Seaga, whose tough programme of structural change to the economy has so far failed to lift it out of decline.

A drop in tourism partly due to last year's troubles, falling demand for the nation's bauxite and drought which hit the other main sector, agriculture, turned a positive projection for growth at the start of 1985 into an estimated 6 per cent shrinkage of the economy by year's end.

The ill effects coincided with a resurgence in the fortunes of the main opposition People's National Party (PNP). Reinvigorated by opinion polls indicating he would easily win an election, its leader, Mr Michael Manley, emerged from a long recuperation after intestinal surgery to launch repeated calls for the Government to resign. A crowd of 80,000 - a tenth of the capital's population - turned out to cheer him.

The PNP refused to contest snap elections in December, 1983, alleging they were in breach of public undertakings by Mr Seaga not to go in the country until new voter registers were completed.

BMA chief urges support for Chilean doctors

The secretary of the British Medical Association, Dr John Havard, yesterday urged doctors around the world to aid the Chilean doctors' organization in its stand against torture by their country's Government.

Complaining in a *British Medical Journal* leading article about lack of medical exchange with Chilean doctors, he said: "Ostracism only plays into the hands of the oppressive regime by concealing from the rest of the world what is going on."

Praising the stand taken by the Colegio Médico de Chile, the Chilean medical organization, he said an international meeting on human rights held there at the end of last year, which he attended, was visited by the secret police who then raided the Santiago human rights office.

Camorra link to Milan train bombing

Florence (AFP) - Seven Italian criminals, including an alleged leader of the Neapolitan Mafia, the Camorra, have been charged in connection with the bomb attack on a crowded Naples-Milan train that left 15 dead and 230 injured on December 23, 1984, an official announced here yesterday.

The alleged Camorra leader was identified as Giuseppe Misso, reportedly close to neo-fascist circles. He and five of the others are already behind bars on separate charges, and the seventh suspect is under house arrest, the acting State Prosecutor, Signor Piero Luigi Vigna, said at a press conference here.

The new charges against the group range from murder, illegal detention, attack with terrorist intentions, and subversion of constitutional order. An article in the Rome newspaper *La Repubblica* last month alleged that Misso helped to organize the attack.

10 people die in collapse of Cairo buildings

Cairo - Five buildings collapsed in a crowded district of Cairo yesterday, killing at least 10 people and wounding many others (Our Correspondent writes).

As bulldozers moved in on Mohammed Ali Street in Abaha, once renowned as Cairo's red light district, officials gave varying estimates of the number of people caught under the rubble.

Riot police cordoned off the block as dozens of people gathered on the street or on balconies to watch the rescue.

Buildings often collapse in Cairo's poorer, more overcrowded areas, where inhabitants often complain that government inspections of suspect buildings are not vigilant enough.

Ershad poll ultimatum

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

Dhaka - President Ershad of Bangladesh said that martial law would continue indefinitely if the main opposition parties refused to take part in elections he promised by April this year (Ahmed Fazi writes).

He told a big rally organized by the pro-government Jatiyo (National) party in central Dhaka that he would neither lift martial law nor hand over to a opposition as conditions for participation. "They will either accept elections under martial law or military rule continues."

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Deng's reformists take over leadership of anti-corruption campaign

From Mary Lee, Peking

China's younger party officials in Mr Deng Xiaoping's reformist leadership team have taken over the battle against corruption from conservatives who had used "unhealthy tendencies" to criticize the current economic reforms. Western diplomats said yesterday.

Last week saw the launch of a top-level campaign against corruption at a two-day special meeting attended by 3,000 senior party, government and army officials. The sources said that the new team will also be weeding out anti-reformers in the central party organizations and government departments.

Mr Hu Yaobang, the General Secretary of the party, gave notice to such people when he specifically mentioned "functionaries (who) cannot meet the demands of the modernization tasks," while a deputy head of the new three-man anti-corruption team also called for the removal of unqualified officials.

The meeting also shows that the young reformists promoted in the Politburo and party secretariat at last September's party conference are now running the country.

The diplomats said that, although Mr Hu delivered a keynote speech, it was the young reformists, led by Mr Hu Qil, aged 56, who dominated

the meeting. None of the veteran leaders - Mr Deng, President Li Xianmin or Mr Chen Yun - attended. They had their say at the September conference, one diplomat said. It was the younger Mr Hu - tipped to be the party's General Secretary - who announced the formation of the top-level anti-corruption team, headed by Mr Qiao Shi, aged 60, Mr Wang Zhaoguo, aged 44, and Mr Qiang Ziaochu, who is in his sixties.

Mr Qiao and Mr Wang have "impeccable reformist credentials," they said, and Mr Qiang, while not a reformist, knows everybody in the People's Liberation Army. Mr Qiang's PLA connections (he was formerly party secretary and political commissar of Jilin province and military district) are important because there is an one from the Army in the team and corruption within the military is also serious.

Moreover, the diplomat said, Mr Qiang is also secretary of the Central Discipline Inspection Commission, headed by a noted conservative, Mr Chen Yun. Mr Qiang's appointment to the new team will ease the demotion of the commission from the front ranks of the anti-corruption campaign. The commission "is now under the control of the reformists," the diplomat added.

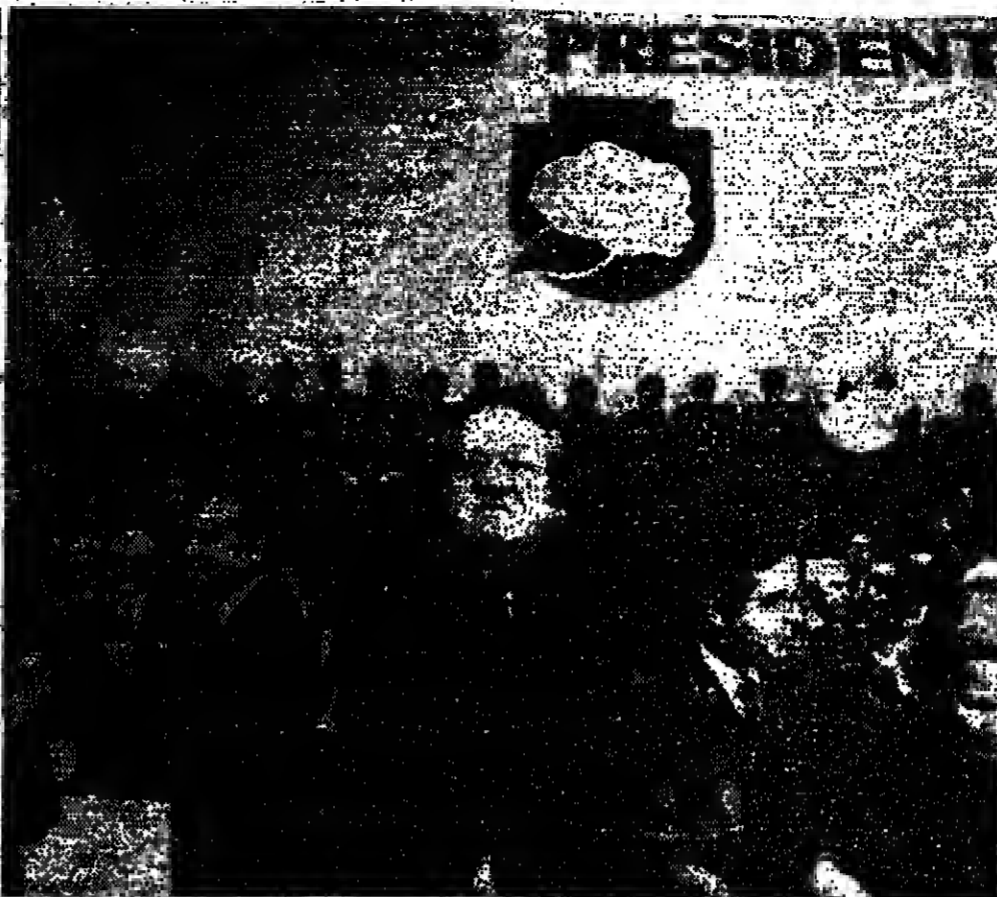
This attempt at house-cleaning by the reformists in preparation for the 13th party congress in 1987, analysts said, is their first big initiative since their victory at the September party conference.

"It took a lot of courage because the stakes are very high," one diplomat remarked. "Their survival and the continuation of the reforms are at stake now."

Mr Tian Jiyun, aged 56, a Politburo member and also Deputy Prime Minister in charge of price and wage reforms, appeared to be countering mounting popular dissatisfaction over inflation when he led the meeting. "Incomes have grown faster than prices. During the 1981-1985 period, prices have risen on average by 18.7 per cent while the average urban worker's pay increased by 68 per cent and peasants' incomes had more than doubled. People's living standards have improved despite the price rises."

However, Mr Tian also said that the Government would be taking certain measures to counter price rises.

He reiterated that the policy of allowing some people to become wealthier was "correct" and that the economic reforms would not lead to capitalism.



Dr. Mario Soares, the Socialist candidate, saluting supporters at his inaugural rally

Five start race for Eanes job

From Martha de la Cal, Santarem

Portugal's five presidential candidates officially opened their campaign at the weekend with noisy rallies around the country. They have already been campaigning hard for several months in the closely-fought contest to succeed General Ramalho Eanes, who is stepping down after two five-year terms.

The socialist candidate, Dr Mario Soares, who is making a steady comeback after the resounding defeat of his party in last year's parliamentary elections, opened his campaign in Lisbon with a colourful pageant at a sports ground.

He has enlisted the support of Portugal's Olympic marathon champion, Carlos Lopes, who appears on a campaign poster extolling Dr Soares' qualities as a "long-distance runner". Dr Soares is campaigning as the candidate who can prevent a political polariza-

tion of the country and guarantee stability.

Dr Saigad Zinha, the former socialist backed by President Eanes as his successor, launched his campaign on Saturday night in Santarem, a prosperous agricultural town north of Lisbon where President Eanes's Democratic Renewal Party (PRD) which is backing Dr Zinha, was established last year.

Dr Zinha said he intended to carry on the work of the popular, respected President Eanes. He said the election of his right-wing opponent, Dr Diogo Freitas do Amaral, who is expected to emerge in first place on January 26 and go on to the second round of voting in February against whoever of the three left-wing candidates "runner". Dr Soares is campaigning as the candidate who can prevent a political polariza-

Senhor Angel Veloso, has said he would stand down later in favour of Dr Zinha, who has stressed that the Communists - who represent about 18 per cent of the vote - are citizens, just like other Portuguese.

Dr Freitas do Amaral, supported by the Christian Democrats and most of the social Democrats, launched his campaign at the Crystal Palace in Oporto. He presents himself as a man at the centre, with a European outlook, who stands for free enterprise.

The populist Roman Catholic candidate, Senhora Maria Lourdes Pintasilgo, who is not backed by any political party, chose the agrarian reform lands of the Alentejo to begin her campaign. She is the unknown element in the presidential elections. The exact extent of her popular support is a constant worry for the candidates.

Passport offer may head off Sri Lanka tea strike

Colombo - The Ceylon Workers Congress today is expected to call off its half-day prayer session protest on Sri Lanka's tea plantations (Vijitha Yapa writes).

The workers wanted a full day's wage through they would work from tomorrow for only half a day for the next three months. This was refused by the state-owned plantations, which

run the majority of the tea estates.

The 400,000-member congress is mainly composed of Indian Tamils and is led by Mr S. Thandaman, a Tamil minister to President Jayewardene's Government. One of the main demands is that its people should be granted Sri Lanka citizenship to end their statelessness.

At an emergency session yesterday the congress decided to postpone the final decision until they had a meeting with the Minister of National Security, Mr Lalith Athulathudimali.

The Indian High Commissioner, Mr J. N. Dixit has assured Mr Athulathudimali and Mr Thandaman that India would give passports to 83,000 of the stateless, informed

Solidarity leader captured by police

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Polish secret police have arrested a Solidarity underground leader who has been on the run since the December, 1981, martial law crackdown.

Mr Bogdan Borusewicz represented the Gdansk region on the Solidarity underground's three-man leadership and is the most important arrest for more than six months. Mr Lech Walesa, chairman of the outlawed union, described him as one of the country's "most outstanding and most talented fighters for human rights".

Mr Borusewicz has been near the top of the military prosecutor's wanted list for several years and was responsible last October for gathering and collating secret election-turnout figures during parliamentary polls.

These contradicted the official figures and were later quoted by Mr Walesa. The enraged authorities opened a slander case against Mr Walesa and stepped up the hunt for Mr Borusewicz.

The official news agency PAP said Mr Borusewicz was suspected of "carrying out illegal activities aimed against the vital interests of the state".

The last important underground figure to be arrested was Mr Tadeusz Jedynek last June. Mr Borusewicz took over the Gdansk leadership from Mr Bogdan Lis, who was arrested in June, 1984, and ranked as an important moderating force within the underground. His arrest poses a serious problem for Solidarity.

Glomp meeting: M Jean-Michel Bayler, a French Deputy Foreign Minister, met Cardinal Jozef Glomp, the Polish primate, during an official visit to Warsaw last week. Church sources say they discussed the future of a church fund to channel Western money to private farmers in Poland.

Athens to get F16s after deal with US

From Mario Modiano, Athens

The United States has lifted its objections to the sale of 40 F16 fighter aircraft to Greece, but only after Athens formally undertook to prevent military technology leaks to the Soviet Union.

Clearance for the \$1 billion (\$670 million) sale significantly came after discreet Greek assurances that the Americans could keep their military facilities in the country beyond 1990.

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, is expected to visit Athens next spring to negotiate a formula that would satisfy the US without embarrassing the Socialist Government, which is ideologically committed to ending the American presence by the end of the decade.

The final text of a US-Greek agreement providing for concrete measures to protect Western weapons systems from technology leaks was signed last week. Within hours Mr Caspar Weinberger, the US Defence Secretary, sent a letter to Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, announcing that he had given the green light for the aircraft sale.

American misgivings about Greek security have held up the deal for more than six months. They were strengthened by the revelations of a Soviet official, Mr Sergei Bakhan, who was serving in Athens until he defected to the US last May, that Soviet military intelligence was obtaining Western high-technology secrets in Greece.

His testimony led to the arrangement of three Greeks, including a Juniper naval officer, on charges of selling defence secrets to the Russians. The chief of Greek central intelligence, General George Politis, questioned Mr Bokhan in Washington last month.

Delivery of the F16s from General Dynamics is to begin in 30 months. Greek officials find this delay disconcerting. They had been relying on their order for 40 French Mirage 2000 fighters and the 40 F16s to preserve the balance of power with Turkey, which placed its own order for 160 F16s more than a year ago, without having to sign a confidentiality agreement.

Greek opposition parties claimed in Parliament last week that Turkish air violations in the Aegean were becoming more frequent.

Brazil gold hunters kill 60 Indians

Manaus, Brazil (AFP) - at least 60 Indians were killed last week by about 200 gold prospectors who invaded the Tukano tribal reserve in the Amazon region of northern Brazil, two Brazilian congressmen said.

The prospectors, said to be linked to a mining firm, were armed with machine-guns and automatic rifles while the Indians were carrying only primitive weapons, the congressmen said, on Friday.

Senhor Arthur Virgilio Neto and Senhor Pedro Gonçalves, of the ruling Brazilian Democratic Movement party, said the massacre was in a gold-rich area.

According to an Indian chief, Benedito Machado, 30,000 Indians are on their way to help the Tukanos.

Spain seeks arrest of ETA exile

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

Spain will ask the French to arrest a Basque exile living in southern France, after police there rescued a Bilbao industrialist from kidnapers, found evidence that the abduction was ordered and directed by an exile, the pro-Government daily *El Pais* reported yesterday.

Police identified the suspected leader of the military wing of the Basque separatist organization as Señor Santiago Arrospe, alias Sarasola, alias Potros. His arrest could be the first step to an extradition request.

The Government revealed yesterday that officials of the Interior Ministry and the Foreign Ministry were in Cape Verde at the weekend, seeking the permission of the Cape Verde Government to banish

more ETA terrorists to the African island republic. There are already three ETA activists confined to Cape Verde.

Meanwhile, there have been conflicting reports in the press about how police managed to discover the "people's jail" near Bilbao and free the kidnapped industrialist. Some said the information came from ETA men tortured in Ecuador while others said the tip-off came from those in Cape Verde. The police have claimed the hide-out was discovered by detectives making routine checks.

As the investigation continued into the kidnapping, police discovered on Saturday another arms cache used by the terrorists at Snodica, the town where Bilbao airport is located.

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Iberian Socialists alter balance of power in European Parliament

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The European Parliament meets today for the first time since the enlargement of the EEC to 12 members, with the large-scale influx of Spanish and Portuguese MEPs altering the balance of power at Strasbourg.

The arrival of a sizeable contingent of articulate Iberian Socialists puts the left-wing parties in Parliament closer to a majority, challenging the traditional centre-right dominance of the chamber. Within the Socialist group itself, the new Spanish and Portuguese MEPs, described by Parliament officials as "serious, pragmatic, business-oriented and very pro-Europe", will reduce the importance of the British Labour MEPs, most of whom are virulently anti-Community.

The total number of MEPs rises from 434 to 518, with the Socialist group increasing by 42 to 172, the Christian Democrats by seven to 117, and the Conservatives from 50 to 63.

The Parliament faces crucial issues this week, including the disputed 1986 budget and the institutional reforms agreed at last month's Luxembourg summit. The Council of Ministers has threatened to take the Parliament to the European

Court for passing an "illegal" budget, which includes extra funds to take account of both the cost of enlargement and 1986 social and regional spending.

The 60 Spanish and 24 Portuguese MEPs are all parliamentarians from their national assemblies and have been nominated for Strasbourg according to the relative parliamentary strengths of the Spanish and Portuguese political parties.

But the European Parliament has been directly elected since 1979, and Spain and Portugal are expected to hold separate elections for the Strasbourg assembly this year.

There is speculation that Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Spanish Prime Minister, will hold Spain's Euro-election at the same time as the country's referendum on Nato membership, thus reinforcing Spain's identity with the Western world in the minds of Spanish voters.

Among the Iberian MEPs are several distinguished professionals in a chamber sometimes criticized for its low-calibre membership.

Apart from the Socialist group, the right-wing groups at

Strasbourg will also be strengthened with Señor Manuel Fraga's Popular Alliance party entering the European Democratic Group, hitherto dominated by the British Conservatives.

"Unfortunately for the British Tories," one Strasbourg official said, "especially since Fraga's party was close to Franco in pre-democratic Spain and could be said to belong more naturally to the European right", a reference to Parliament's far-right grouping.

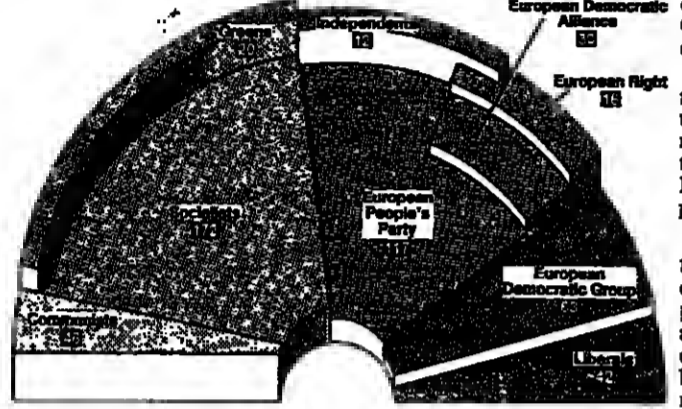
The ability of the left at Strasbourg to challenge the centre-right will depend on greater voting discipline within the Socialist group. Discipline has often been lax in the past, with left-wing deputies not bothering to vote.

The Iberian influx will cause some redistribution of seating in the chamber, which spans the entire spectrum of European politics from the Communists and the Greens to the Gaullists, the Christian Democrats and the European right.

The new complexion of the Strasbourg chamber still leaves the left some 20 votes short of an outright majority, so that it will have to canvass support from the Independents and encourage defections from the Gaullists or Christian Democrats.

Problems may also arise over the Spanish MEPs' demand that, as an important European nation, Spain should be allotted two vice-presidential seats in Parliament. There are 12 vice-presidents at present.

"The Spanish are very keen to be accepted immediately as dynamic and committed Europeans," one official said. "They are young, liberal-minded and dedicated, and will not tolerate being patronized as backward newcomers."



Rome finds 70 spies in six months

From John Earle, Rome

The Italian security services have unmasked 70 secret agents of foreign countries in the six months between last May and November, Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, disclosed in a report to Parliament at the weekend.

Though the spies were from a wider area than the Middle East, the Prime Minister expressed particular anxiety at the "high risk" of Italy being contaminated by the violence and terrorism sweeping that region.

Evidence of this had been seen in incidents such as the Palestinian hijacking in November of the liner Achille Lauro and the terrorist attack at Rome airport after Christmas.

The six-monthly security report said that, while domestic terrorism had generally decreased, there were signs of a revival of activity by right-wing extremists, who had links both with extremists abroad and with the Mafia.

A two-prong strategy for dealing with Middle East terrorism was outlined by Signor Craxi in a reply to a personal letter from President Reagan about Washington's sanctions against Libya. Though the text is confidential, it was made known that Signor Craxi firstly emphasized the importance of strict security measures, both internally and internationally.

In the wake of the Achille Lauro hijacking, the Captain, General Craxi, announced last week that he was writing a script for a proposed film about the event. But the Genoa magistrate conducting the judicial inquiry as halted the project for the time being by warning that the matter is still *sub judice*.

The spread of Middle East terror in Europe Dutch alert widens to cover US targets

The Hague (AP) - The Abu Nidal terrorist alert in The Netherlands yesterday was expanded to include American diplomatic and commercial offices, as well as Jewish and Israeli institutions, the Dutch Justice Ministry said.

An alert in both The Netherlands and Scandinavia began on Thursday and Friday, with Interpol warnings of a possible strike against Jewish or Israeli targets by terrorist commands under the direction of the Abu Nidal faction believed to be in the region.

No terrorist-related incidents or arrests were reported in any of the nations concerned over the weekend, and Scandinavian authorities yesterday said their original alert continued but had not been expanded to include possible American targets.

The access road to the front of the United States Embassy in The Hague was blocked by sand-filled lorries at each end

last night, and police converged within minutes to investigate the flash of a photographers' camera.

Dutch authorities said privately that the expanded alert made guarding potential American targets, as well as Israeli and Jewish ones, "practically impossible".

BONN: West Germany's Federal Public Prosecutor, Herr Kurt Rebmann, yesterday drew attention to what he probably has the easiest route for Arab terrorists into West Europe (Frank Johnson writes).

It is the Friedrichstrasse railway station - the dirty, dilapidated building which is the first, or last, railway station in East Berlin. Travellers from East Berlin can catch unhindered the train which will take them the few hundred yards across the Wall to the first station in West Berlin.

It is one of the two main points from where visitors enter

and leave East Berlin, the other being the vehicle-and-pedestrian crossing place, checkpoint Charlie.

To get beyond the East German barrier at Friedrichstrasse, and on to the westbound platform, the average traveller must produce a non-Eastern Block passport and the visa, enabling him to enter East Berlin for a day, with which he would have been issued by the East German border force on the way in. Therefore it is not possible for most East Berliners to make the trip. But many Arabs live in East Berlin, engaged in various activities paid for by the East German Government, and their Middle East passports enable them to come and go as they please.

Once in West Berlin, they can catch trains or aircraft to any part of West Europe. Although they have to produce a passport at West Berlin's airport, it has not been usual until now for

them to be questioned as to where they have come from. It is difficult to prove that they have not been solely in West Berlin rather than in the East.

"Arab terror commands can be smuggled into the federal republic via East Berlin", Herr Rebmann said in an interview with the West Berlin magazine *Weltbild*. "The trouble spot is the Friedrichstrasse station in Berlin."

It is also assumed here that Herr Rebmann's remarks mean increased security checks on passengers getting out at West Berlin stations from trains coming from Friedrichstrasse. But there are many such stations and checks will be difficult.

Herr Rebmann said the alliances were well known between Libya and other Arab terrorists, and the West German terrorist group, the Red Army Faction,

which had awaited solution too long, giving rise to feelings of frustration, hatred and revenge.

Without mentioning the Palestinians, the Pope appealed for negotiations and dialogue to overcome obstacles to the just aspirations of peoples. "In particular it is not here that one finds the knot of the injustice which must be united to arrive at a just and fair solution to the whole question the Middle East."

In a powerful speech devoted to foreign affairs, also spoke out against the systematic terror of police states towards their inhabitants, the socio-economic exploitation of one country by another, and the exploitation of a country's citizens by its privileged elite.

He condemned absolutely those who did not hesitate to kill innocent people and take hostages, since these were crimes against humanity. At the same time there were situations

split over the issue. "It certainly would not make us turn on them, and I don't believe there has ever been a time when the outright friendship between governments or allies has been as strong as it is now."

Concentrating entirely on the Libyan crisis as he spoke to the five correspondents in the Oval Office, he said Soviet involvement with Libya was "very close".

Mr Reagan said he spoke at length about terrorism to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, at their Geneva meeting. Mr Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, at their Geneva meeting, Mr Gorbachev had expressed his repugnance for terrorist acts. But Mr Reagan recognized in the current Soviet attacks on US action against Libya that there were "certain elements of propaganda". He had not contacted Mr Gorbachev specifically over Libya in the past days, but would be bringing it up.

As well as *The Times*, the other papers represented were *Le Monde*, *La Stampa*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and *Die Presse*, of Vienna.

President who had greatness thrust on him wins trust

From Sue Branford, São Paulo

On March 8 last year, Senator José Sarney, who had been elected Vice-President earlier in the year, confided to a friend: "I know that I shall only have a secondary role in Brazil's new democracy. But I am satisfied. The vice-presidency is for me a kind of retirement."

Little did he know that just a week later, he would be accepting the presidential sash in place of the incapacitated President-elect, Senator Tancredino Neves, and that eventually, after the latter's death, he would take over the presidency. Far from retiring, he was beginning the most demanding task of his life.

The impact of this bizarre chain of events is still sharply felt 10 months later. Unlike Senator Neves, President Sarney is a world statesman and it is unlikely that he would have reached the presidency through the normal route.

Over the past few months he has met both President Menem of France and President Alfonsín of Argentina. To listen to his speeches beside the sea is to become aware, all too sharply, of the qualities that President Sarney does not possess. Unlike them, he is a poor public speaker and does not project the image of a confident statesman with a coherent world view.

However, he has managed, skilfully, to turn his very weaknesses into political advantages. The evident difficulty he has faced in understanding some of the more complex aspects of government, together with his humility and his willingness to work hard, have won him the respect and trust of most of the population.

He is seen as having made the best of an impossibly difficult job and, paradoxically, he is not blamed for the perceived shortcomings of his Government.

But what did he achieve in 1985? Though it tends to be overlooked in Brazil itself, his Government has made real progress in ridding the country of the authoritarian trappings left by the military regime. Direct elections for President have been re-established. The Communist parties have been legalized. Illiterates have been given the vote.

Advances have also been made in the social field. Thanks to the skill of the Labour Minister, Senator Almir

Piazzonetto, the Government has prevented strikes from seriously upsetting production at the same time it has avoided using the repressive anti-strike law, which has not been repealed because of failure to agree on an alternative.

The first tentative steps have been taken, with the distribution of free milk and medicine to alleviate widespread poverty and malnutrition.

The most decisive action of all has been taken in the economic field. The Finance Minister, Senator Dilson Funes, has established clear priorities, the most important of which is economic growth. With the support of most of the population, he has refused to negotiate another austerity programme with the International Monetary Fund.

SARNEY'S BRAZIL

Despite these advances, the pace of change has disappointed many people. In particular, it was widely hoped that the Government would move more rapidly to end the horrific social inequalities.

President Sarney admits that reforms have not been as radical or as rapid as many would like, but claims that his is a transitional government. It will be up to the Congress that will be elected in November to establish the guidelines for fundamental change, he says.

This Congress will rule the country and act as a constituent assembly. It is hoped that it will create the framework for a more egalitarian society and produce a workable, democratic constitution that will banish for ever the scourge of the military coup.

In the meantime, President Sarney's main political challenge will be to stem the feelings of dissatisfaction, which must eventually damage his own standing. He will be carrying out a radical reshuffle of the Cabinet next month. Aides say that the new catchwords are efficiency and social communication.

Finally, after months of respecting the wishes of Senator Tancredino Neves, he will be assuming full responsibility for his Government.

Tomorrow: Priorities reversed

Challenge to Evren by left and right

From Raskit Gurdilek, Ankara

The new year call by President Evren of Turkey for internal peace and conciliation has apparently been misinterpreted by the extra-parliamentary left and right, which announced agreement on the need for a constitution of national reconciliation to be placed on the President is personally pledged to defend.

The announcement followed a meeting between Mrs. Rahsan Ecevit, leader of the recently-founded Democratic Left Party supported by her husband Bülent, a former Social Democrat Prime Minister, and Mr. Hüsamettin Cindoruk, chairman of the True Path Party loyal to the former conservative Prime Minister Mr. Süleyman Demirel, who was similarly banned from active politics after the 1980 army coup.

They discussed proposals advanced earlier in the week by the True Path Party for the drafting of a "democratic constitution" by an elected constituent assembly, to be followed by elections for a "democratic parliament".

Both leaders called on other parties, represented in Parliament to support the initiative. They have so far been unenthusiastic about the proposal, preferring a revision by Parliament, an unlikely prospect given the majority of the ruling Motherland Party, which favours only minor modifications.

Mrs Ecevit hailed the True Path initiative, saying the nation owed its "misfortunes" to the rift between left and right. She favoured the drafting of a new constitution by a multi-party commission, which could be submitted to popular vote following general elections.

Mr Cindoruk said national reconciliation could only be accomplished "on a base of democracy". He described Turkey as "a military republic at present".

Spain nears recognition of Israel

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Señor Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, Spain's Foreign Minister, has assured Arab ambassadors in Madrid that support for the Arab cause will in no way be altered by recognition of Israel, still planned for the first half of this year.

When it establishes full relations with Israel, Spain is expected to raise the level of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's representation to a compensatory gesture.

An extra worry for Spain over other EEC countries in respect to US requests against Colonel Gaddafi is that its recognition of Israel is still pending. This is apart from its trading interests - Spain was among Libya's leading trade partners with imports, chiefly petrol, totalling more than £770 million in 1984.

Aware that Madrid's Barajas airport was supposed to be the third terrorist target together with Rome and Vienna last month, Spain is deeply worried about the possibility of terrorist attacks whenever it recognizes Israel.

Señor Narcis Serra, the Defence Minister, now visiting Egypt, is believed to be studying with Cairo possible Arab reactions to recognition and the security implications.

Spanish plans for recognition include sending special police units to guard embassies in the Middle East.

The Foreign Minister's talk with the Arab envoys came after the Arab League decided to send a delegation to Madrid for one last effort to stop recognition.

Señor Felipe Gonzalez, the Prime Minister, had hoped advances in Middle East peace plans would provide a favourable moment. Another opportunity for recognition as Spain joined the EEC has now also slipped by.

Pretoria hint of change

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Positive signals indicating that the South African Government will continue its apartheid reform plans can be expected in the not too distant future, Dr Fritz Lentwiler, the Swiss banker who is acting as mediator in Pretoria's efforts to reschedule part of its international debts, said yesterday.

Dr Lentwiler, who has concluded a three-day visit to South Africa, said he would be calling a meeting of creditor banks in February at which he

would put proposals designed as a "first step back to normality" for crisis-hit South Africa.

Pretoria owes its creditors \$23.7 billion (£16 billion) for short-term loans, but last August after the collapse of the rand it froze repayment of the capital, but not interest, till December 31. It has since extended the freeze till March 31 and proposed a further four-year period of grace on repayment of the capital.

Mrs Corazon Aquino and her running mate, Mr Salvador Laurel, campaigning in Cebu City, where they were greeted by 200,000 Filipinos

Marcos stronghold cheers Aquino

Davao City, Philippines (AP) - As Mrs Corazon Aquino, the Philippines presidential challenger, campaigned on Cebu island yesterday, the daughter of President Marcos followed her father to try to keep the area on her father's side.

Mrs Imee Marcos Manotoc, a

member of the National Assembly, visited slums and attended a religious festival, after more than 200,000 cheering Cebu residents gave Mrs Aquino the biggest welcome so far for a candidate in the February 7 election.

In Manila President Marcos

mocked Mrs Aquino's political inexperience, ridiculed her statement that she would welcome Communists into her government if they renounced violence, and expressed confidence that he would be re-elected.

Order to get out splits Americans

From Robert Fisk, Tripoli, Libya

American residents of Libya are divided over whether or not they should obey President Reagan's instruction to leave the country by the end of this month. Some, including American women married to Libyans, have said that they intend to defy the order, though oil workers have admitted privately - and with some bitterness - that they will have to go home, even though West Europeans will probably take their jobs.

The American community in Libya has not been informed officially of Mr Reagan's decision - they have no embassy in Tripoli - and even estimates of their numbers vary widely. The Belgians, who look after US interests here, say they believe there are no more than 600 US citizens in the country. The State Department puts the figure at 1,500; one oil worker thought there might be as many as 3,000.

But already the few Americans prepared to talk to reporters - and then only anonymously - have spoken with some cynicism of their future. A few families are wondering if the Libyans would grant them entry and exit visas without stamping their US passports - thus making it impossible for the American authorities to prove they had remained here.

Others have said they are merely scapegoats in a crisis which is not of their making. No American citizen is known to have said that he or she feels threatened in Libya.

An American oil company technician, who returned to his desert posting in Libya only three days ago, said he would leave because he intended to obey his country's laws but that US oil companies were arranging already for their European subsidiaries to fill the jobs of Americans.

Mr Skender Beane, who is head of the Department of Recreation at the Overseas Oil Company School in Tripoli, thought most US citizens would leave. "We don't want to do anything to break the law," he said.

Be that as it may, another American teacher at the school - a woman who has been here five years and asked not to be identified - said she had no intention of obeying Mr Reagan's order.

"I'm safer here than in New York," she said. "What is wrong with having a job (as a teacher) and carrying on a living? I was here back when Reagan said that (we should leave) the first time, and I did not go home. I'm not worried about breaking this law. It is unconstitutional. The President does not have the power to do that. President Reagan talks about terrorists, but our country is full of violent criminals."

An American woman teacher at the same school, who is married to a Libyan, said she felt no threat to herself or her family. "A few people will leave," she said. "They feel they have to go home and be in jail for 10 years. But why should they have to leave their jobs and their friends? Some of them have been here for years. It's harding us Americans."

Reagan spells out conditions for ending sanctions

From Michael Binyon, Washington

As Mr John Whitehead, the Deputy Secretary of State, begins his visit to Europe to persuade allied leaders to back the US over sanctions on Libya, President Reagan has said that Colonel Gaddafi would have to show that he had ended all support for terrorism before these were lifted.

In an interview with *The Times*, and four other West European correspondents on Friday, Mr Reagan said: "He would have to reveal actions that he has severed those connections and is no longer backing these terrorist groups." When I asked the President whether he had to be satisfied there was no financial link and no training camps left in Libya, he replied: "Right."

It was the first time Mr Reagan had spelled out the conditions for the lifting of sanctions. At the same time he explained why the US had rejected military retaliation. "We were a little defenceless... while so many of our citizens were there and potential hostages. We thought we should untie our hands for whatever



President Reagan outlining his conditions to (from centre left) Michael Binyon of *The Times*, Henri Pierre of *Le Monde* and Leo Wierland of *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*.

action might be necessary" by ordering them to leave. But he refused to say what future military response, if any, the US might make.

In his interview, arranged at short notice in an attempt to persuade the reluctant allies of the depth of American feeling over Libya, Mr Reagan hoped the Europeans would recognize "the moral issue involved" when a sovereign state so

obviously resorted to terrorism "literally against the world". But he was forthright in rejecting any US action to have Colonel Gaddafi assassinated. "You don't join them at their level. Terrorism is a response to terrorism that is the evil."

"When I mentioned a moment ago that a moral issue was involved, that is what I am hoping our friends and allies will consider. Can we place

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Are they being less than frank?

Sorry, Lufthansa, but your ad for Frankfurt Main should never have got off the ground.

"Continental Europe," for heaven's sake! Presumably that's the bit without Britain in it. And therefore without Heathrow.

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(With nearly twice as many international passengers as Frankfurt.)

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The 1984 league table of international passengers is as follows: 1. London Heathrow, 24,096,000. 2. New York JFK 16,334,000. 3. Frankfurt 13,390,000. 4. London Gatwick 12,817,000. 5. Paris, Charles de Gaulle 12,403,000.

Iberian Socialists alter balance of power in European Parliament

From Richard Owen, Brussels

The European Parliament meets today for the first time since the enlargement of the EEC to 12 members, with the large-scale influx of Spanish and Portuguese MEPs altering the balance of power at Strasbourg.

The arrival of a sizeable contingent of articulate Iberian Socialists puts the left-wing parties in Parliament closer to a majority, challenging the traditional centre-right dominance of the chamber. Within the Socialist group itself, the new Spanish and Portuguese MEPs, described as "serious, pragmatic, business-oriented and very pro-European", will reduce the importance of the British Labour MEPs, most of whom are virulently anti-Community.

The total number of MEPs rises from 434 to 518, with the Socialist group increasing by 42 to 172, the Christian Democrats by seven to 117, and the Conservatives from 50 to 63.

The Parliament faces crucial issues this week, including the disputed 1986 budget and the institutional reforms agreed at last month's Luxembourg summit. The Council of Ministers has threatened to take the Parliament to the European

Court for passing an "illegal" budget, which includes extra funds to take account of both the cost of enlargement and 1986 social and regional spending.

The 60 Spanish and 24 Portuguese MEPs are all parliamentarians from their national assemblies and have been nominated for Strasbourg according to the relative parliamentary strengths of the Spanish and Portuguese political parties.

But the European Parliament has been directly elected since 1979, and Spain and Portugal are expected to hold separate elections for the Strasbourg assembly this year.

There is speculation that Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, will hold Spain's Euro-election at the same time as the country's referendum on Nato membership, thus reinforcing Spain's identity with the Western world in the minds of Spanish voters.

Among the Iberian MEPs are several distinguished professionals in a chamber sometimes criticized for its low-calibre membership.

Apart from the Socialist group, the right-wing groups at

Strasbourg will also be strengthened with Señor Manuel Fraga's Popular Alliance party entering the European Democratic Group, hitherto dominated by the British Conservatives.

"Uniformity for the British Tories," one Strasbourg official said, "especially since Fraga's party was close to Franco in pre-democratic Spain and could be said to belong more naturally to the European right", a reference to Parliament's far-right grouping.

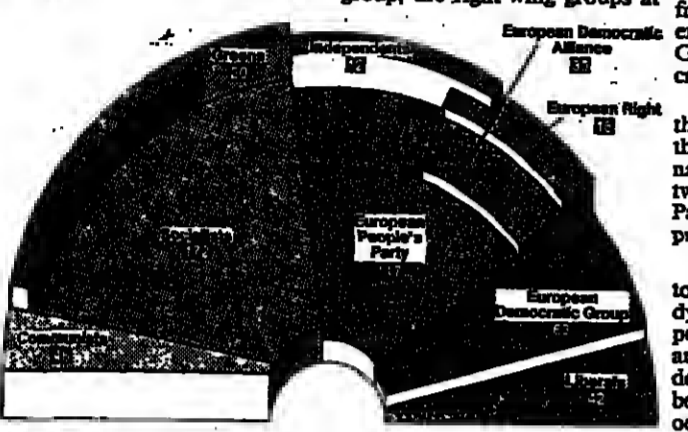
The ability of the left at Strasbourg to challenge the centre-right will depend on greater voting discipline within the Socialist group. Discipline has often been lax in the past, with left-wing deputies not bothering to vote.

The Iberian influx will cause some redistribution of seating in the chamber, which spans the entire spectrum of European politics from the Communists and the Greens to the Gaullists, the Christian Democrats and the European right.

The new complexion of the Strasbourg chamber still leaves the left some 20 votes short of an outright majority, so that it will have to canvass support from the Independents and encourage defections from the Gaullists or Christian Democrats.

Problems may also arise over the Spanish MEPs' demand that, as an important European nation, Spain should be allotted two vice-presidential seats in Parliament. There are 12 vice-presidents at present.

"The Spanish are very keen to be accepted immediately as dynamic and committed Europeans," one official said. "They are young, liberal-minded and dedicated, and will not tolerate being patronized as backward newcomers."



Rome finds 70 spies in six months

From John Earle, Rome

The Italian security services have unmasked 70 secret agents of foreign countries in the six months between last May and November, Signor Bettino Craxi, the Italian Prime Minister, disclosed in a report to Parliament at the weekend.

Though the spies were from a wider area than the Middle East, the Prime Minister expressed particular anxiety at the "high risk" of Italy being contaminated by the violence and terrorism sweeping that region.

Evidence of this had been seen in incidents such as the Palestinian hijacking in November of the liner Achille Lauro and the terrorist attack at Rome airport after Christmas.

The six-monthly security report said that, while domestic terrorism had generally decreased, there were signs of a revival of activity by right-wing extremists, who had links both with extremists abroad and with the Mafia.

A two-prong strategy for dealing with Middle East terrorism was outlined by Signor Craxi in a reply to a personal letter from President Reagan about Washington's sanctions against Libya. Though the text is confidential, it was made known that Signor Craxi firstly emphasized the importance of strict security measures, both internally and internationally.

In the wake of the Achille Lauro hijacking, the Captain, Gerardo de Rosa, announced last week that he was writing a script for a proposed film about the event. But the Genoa magistrate conducting the judicial inquiry as halted the project for the time being by warning that the matter is still *sub judice*.

The spread of Middle East terror in Europe Dutch alert widens to cover US targets

From Denis Taylor, Muscat

The Hague (AP) - The Abu Nidal terrorist alert in The Netherlands yesterday was expanded to include American diplomatic and commercial offices, as well as Jewish and Israeli institutions, the Dutch Justice Ministry said.

An alert in both The Netherlands and Scandinavia began on Thursday and Friday, with Interpol warnings of a possible strike against Jewish or Israeli targets by terrorist commands under the direction of the Abu Nidal faction believed to be in the region.

No terrorist-related incidents or arrests were reported in any of the outposts concerned over the weekend, and Scandinavian authorities yesterday said their original alert continued but had not been expanded to include possible American targets.

The access road to the front of the United States Embassy in The Hague was blocked by sand-filled lorries at each end

last night, and police converged within minutes to investigate the flash of a photographers' camera.

Dutch authorities said privately that the expanded alert made guarding potential American targets, as well as Israeli and Jewish ones, "practically impossible".

BONN: West Germany's Federal Public Prosecutor, Herr Kurt Rebmann, yesterday drew attention to what has probably been the easiest route for Arab terrorists into West Europe (Frank Johnson writes).

It is the Friedrichstrasse railway station - the dirty, dilapidated building which is the first, or last, railway station in East Berlin. Travellers from East Berlin can catch unimpeded the train which will take them the few hundred yards across the Wall to the first station in West Berlin.

It is one of the two main points from where visitors enter

and leave East Berlin, the other being the vehicle-and-pedestrian crossing place, checkpoint Charlie.

To get beyond the East German barrier at Friedrichstrasse, the average traveller must produce a non-Eastern Bloc passport and the visa, enabling him to enter East Berlin for a day, with which he would have been issued by the East German border force on the way in. Therefore it is not possible for most East Berliners to make the trip. But many Arabs live in East Berlin, engaged in various activities paid for by the East German Government, and their Middle East passports enable them to come and go as they please.

Once in West Berlin, they can catch trains or aircraft to any part of West Europe. Although they have to produce a passport at West Berlin's airport, it has not been usual until now for

them to be questioned as to where they have come from. It is difficult to prove that they have not been solely in West Berlin rather than in the East.

"Arab terror commands can be smuggled into the federal republic via East Berlin", Herr Rebmann said in an interview with the West Berlin magazine *Weltbild*. "The trouble spot is the Friedrichstrasse station in Berlin."

It is also assumed here that Herr Rebmann's remarks mean increased security checks on passengers getting out of West Berlin stations from trains coming from Friedrichstrasse. But there are many such stations and checks will be difficult.

Herr Rebmann said the alliances were well known between Libya and other Arab terrorists, and the West German terrorist group, the Red Army Faction.

which had awaited solution too long, giving rise to feelings of frustration, hatred and revenge.

Without mentioning the Palestinians, the Pope appealed for negotiations and dialogue to overcome obstacles to the just aspirations of peoples. "In particular it is not here that one finds the knot of the injustice which must be untied to arrive at a just and fair solution to the whole question of the Middle East."

In a powerful speech devoted to foreign affairs, also spoke out against the systematic terror of police states towards their inhabitants, the socio-economic exploitation of one country by another, and the exploitation of a country's citizens by its privileged elite.

He condemned absolutely those who did not hesitate to kill innocent people and take hostages, since these were crimes against humanity. At the same time there were situations

Howe insists on Libyan hand in airport attacks

From Geoffrey Howe, the British Foreign Secretary, said here yesterday that it was becoming clearer there was Libyan involvement in the recent terrorist attacks at Rome and Vienna airports.

He made the remark during talks with Mr Yusef al-Alawi, the Omani Foreign Minister. It is understood that he did not elaborate on this statement.

The Arab-Israeli problem, including terrorism, and the Gulf war, took up the bulk of discussions lasting 90 minutes at the start of the Foreign Secretary's tour of Oman, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Sir Geoffrey said that terrorism diminished the credibility of moderate Palestinians. Britain had backed the peace initiative of King Husain of

Pope wants UN censure on states aiding killers

From John Earle, Rome

The Pope has intimated that the United Nations should act against member countries that connive at international terrorism. In a speech on Saturday to diplomats accredited to the Holy See, he said the United Nations "should not tolerate" members that disregarded the principles enshrined in its Charter by compromising themselves with terrorism.

"The Commandment 'Thou shalt not kill' is first of all a fundamental and irremovable principle of religion," he told ambassadors from 117 countries.

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Be that as it may, another American teacher at the school - a woman who has been here five years and asked not to be identified - said she had no intention of obeying Mr Reagan's order.

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Mr Gorbachov had expressed his repugnance for terrorist acts. But Mr Reagan recognized in the current Soviet attacks on US action against Libya that there were "certain elements of propaganda". He had not contacted Mr Gorbachov specifically over Libya in the past days, but would be bringing it up.

As well as *The Times*, the other papers represented were *Le Monde*, *La Stampa*, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* and *Die Presse*, of Vienna

President who had greatness thrust on him wins trust

From Sue Branford, São Paulo

On March 8 last year, Senator José Sarney, who had been elected Vice-President earlier in the year, confided to a friend: "I know that I shall only have a secondary role in Brazil's new democracy. But I am satisfied. The vice-presidency is for me a kind of retirement."

Little did he know that just a week later, he would be accepting the presidential sash in place of the incapacitated President-elect, Senator Tancredino Neves, and that eventually, after the latter's death, he would take over the presidency. Far from retiring, he was beginning the most demanding task of his life.

The impact of this bizarre chain of events is still sharply felt 10 months later. Unlike Senator Neves, President Sarney is no workaholic, and it is unlikely that he would have reached the presidency through the normal route.

Over the past few months he has met both President Médici of Brazil and President Alfonsín of Argentina. To listen to his speeches beside these is to become aware, all too sharply, of the qualities that President Sarney does not possess. Unlike them, he is a poor public speaker and does not project the image of a confident statesman with a coherent world view.

However, he has managed, skilfully, to turn his very disadvantages into a political advantage. The greatest difficulty he has faced in understanding some of the more complex aspects of government, together with his humility and his willingness to work hard, have won him the respect and trust of most of the population.

He is seen as having made the best of an impossibly difficult job and, paradoxically, he is not blamed for the perceived shortcomings of his Government.

But what did he achieve in 1985? Though it tends to be overlooked in ridding the country of the authoritarian trappings left by the military regime, Direct elections for President and Communist parties have been legalized. Illiterates have been given the vote.

Advances have also been made in the social field. Thanks to the skill of the Labour Minister, Senator Almir

Pazzianotto, the Government has prevented strikes from seriously upsetting production at the same time it has avoided using the repressive anti-strike law, which has not been repealed because of failure to agree on an alternative.

The first tentative steps have been taken, with the distribution of free milk and medicine to alleviate widespread poverty and malnutrition.

The most decisive action of all has been taken in the economic field. The Finance Minister, Senator Dilson Fuar, has established clear priorities, the most important of which is economic growth. With the support of most of the population, he has refused to negotiate another austerity programme with the International Monetary Fund.

SARNEY'S BRAZIL Part 1

Despite these advances, the pace of change has disappointed many people. In particular, it was widely hoped that the Government would move more rapidly to end the horrific social inequalities.

President Sarney admits that reforms have not been as radical or as rapid as many would like, but claims that in the economic field the Government is a transparent government. It is a transparent government that will be elected in November to establish the guidelines for fundamental change, he says.

This Congress will rule the country and act as a constituent assembly. It is hoped that it will create the framework for a more egalitarian society and produce a workable, democratic constitution that will banish forever the scourge of the military coup.

In the meantime, President Sarney's main political challenge will be to stem the feelings of dissatisfaction, which must eventually damage his own standing. He will be carrying out a radical reshuffle of the Cabinet next month. Aides say that the new catchwords are efficiency and social communication.

Finally, after months of respectably heaving the wishes of Senator Tancredino Neves, he will be assuming full responsibility for his Government.

Tomorrow: Priorities reversed

Challenge to Evren by left and right

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

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The announcement followed a meeting between Mrs Rahsan Ecevit, leader of the recently-founded Democratic Left Party supported by her husband Bulent, a former Social Democrat Prime Minister banned from politics until 1992, and Mr Husamettin Cindoruk, chairman of the True Path Party loyal to the former conservative Prime Minister Mr Suleyman Demirel, who was similarly banned from active politics after the 1980 army coup.

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هكزامن الازهر

The silent sisters of Broadmoor

For years June and Jennifer Gibbons remained locked away in a world of their own, refusing to speak to anyone and keeping their thoughts to themselves.

Marjorie Wallace (above) explains how she set about solving the mystery of their strange behaviour

A white blizzard was streaking across the Berkshire countryside last week. Snow had softened the outline of the high walls which terrace the hillside surrounding Broadmoor, Britain's most notorious secure hospital. Clinging on to my hat, I was escorted between locked gates, across deserted exercise yards to York house, one of the crumbling brick villas.

This was not my first visit to Broadmoor. For the past three and a half years I have been here every few months to visit June and Jennifer Gibbons, identical twins who, at the age of 19, were sentenced to an indefinite period of treatment following a five-week spree of vandalism and arson.

June arrived first. Then Jennifer sidled round the door negotiating a tray with coffee and biscuits. The girls looked better than I have seen them. Their hair was in coxcombs with pink ribbons. They wore bright lipstick and heavy eye shadow. They chatted with fluency and animation about the forthcoming film and book on their lives which I had written.

In 1982, when I first heard about June and Jennifer, then 18 and living in Haverfordwest on the south-west tip of Wales, I found it hard to believe they had spent their lives in self-imposed silence. I set off to investigate and there I met Tim Thomas, an educational psychologist who had treated them.

In his soft Welsh brogue he told me one of the strangest stories I have ever heard. How the silent twins went through school without uttering a word. How they wrote letters to their parents, even though they lived in the same house, rather than speak to them. How after leaving school they had taught themselves to write and June had used their unemployment benefit to have a oovel printed by a vanity publisher. But then things began to go wrong. They met and were seduced by some American boys

and, when the boys left them, spent a few desperate weeks vandalizing the town and setting fire to public buildings: crimes for which they were awaiting trial.

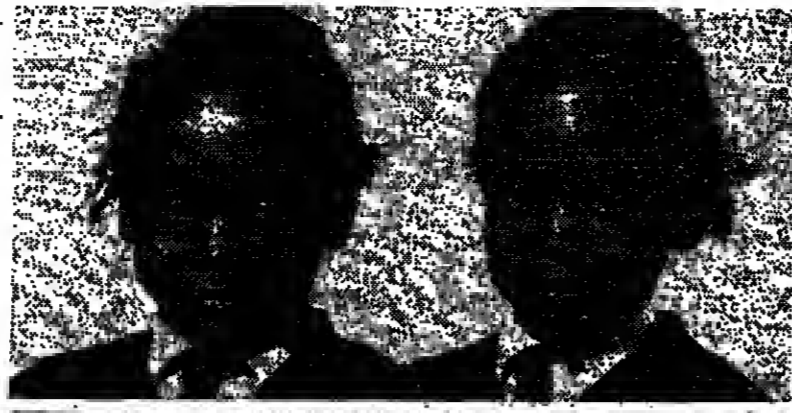
A few weeks later I went with their father to meet the girls in Pucklechurch Remand Centre, near Bristol. The visit was an extraordinary experience. The two girls sat opposite us, their eyes fixed on the floor; two officers at the next table kept their eyes on us.

Communication was difficult: the girls made no response to my questions. Embarrassed by the silence, I launched into a monologue on literature and their attempts to write. Then, I saw a brightening in their faces, an eagerness, an intelligence.

Soon they were answering in whispered monosyllables. Because I could not make out all their words, they scribbled their answers on a pad. I asked my next question: "Could you repeat that, please. I can't understand you", the planchette replied. I looked up and saw Jennifer's mischievous smile. I had my first breakthrough.

A month later, I attended the twins' trial in Swansea. They pleaded guilty. Medical reports classed them as "suffering from a psychopathic disorder" and they were sentenced to Broadmoor Hospital for an indefinite period. As I sat and watched the girls, still standing in the dock, more like lost children than psychopaths, I realized that nothing that had been said in that court touched the truth. I then knew about their sad, isolated lives. I determined to discover what really lay behind their mask of silence.

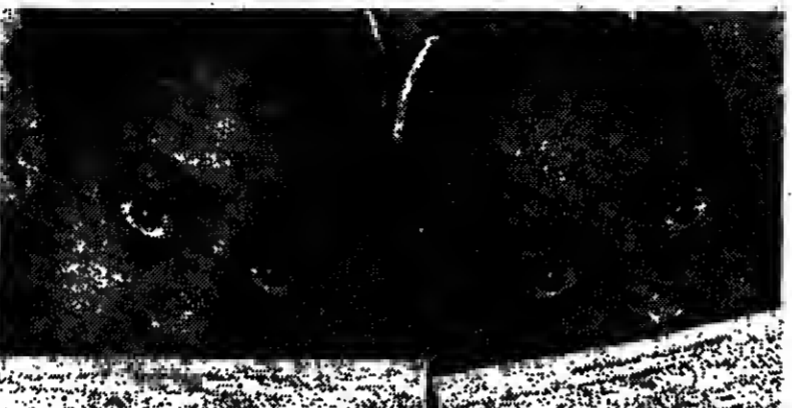
It was not an easy task. I went back to their home town and tried to talk to the teachers, social workers, psychiatrists, police and neighbours. But Haverfordwest is a small town in which the girls had been regarded with fear and suspicion. People who



Jennifer and June Gibbons as children (top) and in Broadmoor



Jilliam and Juliette Teney, who play the young sisters in the BBC2 film



had seen the odd couple walking one behind the other down the street, moving in synchrony and never responding even believed they were possessed with the evil eye.

The team at the special school where they had spent their last school years at first refused to reveal anything. A video which recorded the twins' behaviour through a one-way screen disappeared, tapes on which they had made occasional replies to questions left for them were mysteriously wiped. Tim Thomas was given formal warnings by the local education authority and he and his family found themselves cold-shouldered.

Bitterness, mutual betrayal and rivalries broke out in response to an article I wrote in *The Sunday Times*.

When I mentioned the twins, people in shops or on the estate where they had lived shook their heads and turned away. The policeman who had arrested them shut the door in my face. The lawyers gave nothing away. Behind the scenes the gossip hubbub and everywhere my presence was known. The town seemed to close on

itself to prevent the outside world knowing anything further about its private disgrace.

But there were two chinks in the black-out: Tim Thomas continued to provide information he could to make sure the girls were not forgotten; their parents Aubrey and Gloria Gibbons agreed to talk. It was in their home on the RAF estate (Aubrey then worked as an assistant air traffic controller) that I made my most important discovery. They took me to see the twins' room.

It was littered with pieces of paper, typescripts of novels, handwritten diaries and stacks of books which the girls had ordered through the post - everything from Jane Austen, D. H. Lawrence, encyclopaedias, dictionaries to a course in writing and "The Art of Conversation" - all bought with their unemployment benefit. Much of the material was jumbled in black plastic dustbin liners which the police had returned. Aubrey and Gloria, desperate to feel that something might emerge which helped them understand their strange daughters, allowed me to take all their manuscripts back to London.

The next few weeks were ones of intense excitement as I sorted out the material and discovered the immense energy and industry the twins had spent in their self-improvement exercise to transform themselves from inmate and backward oddities to accomplished writers. I pieced together their stories and novels which revealed fluent dialogue and an extraordinary wealth of imagery. How had girls who never used language written it with such confidence? I longed to communicate with them

but just as I was despairing of getting closer, I received a call from their psychiatrist. He had read my article on their writings, and invited me to visit and encourage their efforts - an unprecedented gesture of concern.

I was shocked when I saw Jennifer and later June in the visitors room at Broadmoor nearly a month after their trial. They were being kept apart. June had to be lifted in, propped like a coffin against the shoulders of the nurses. She sat rigid, her eyes downcast. Jennifer was also depressed but she tried to talk: "Please tell them to let us be together again", she said. I asked what she had been writing and she handed me two pink exercise books, the diaries she had kept during her six months on remand.

On the train home I looked with disbelief at the pages of the exercise books sewn with thousands of tiny words, so minute they were barely decipherable. They had the detail and density of medieval manuscripts and as I worked on them through many nights, I found myself living through the minutiae of her daily life, her thoughts, dreams and reflections.

Over my next visits, both June and Jennifer handed me more diaries. Both twins had written between two and three thousand words a day describing their past and present lives with an extraordinary zest and faithfulness. They mixed wry observations of other inmates and staff with Proust-like nostalgia for their childhood, recollections of their brief and traumatic romances, and the desperate war of identity which raged between them.

"I say to myself how can I get rid of my own shadow? Impossible or not impossible? Without my shadow would I die? Without my shadow would I live? I, the shadow which I identify with the face of misery, deception, murder", June wrote.

They were like cameras sometimes focussed on the outside world - sometimes fixed on each other recording the same scenes from identical but opposing viewpoints. I knew that every visit I made would be accurately reported. It was an unending experience.

At one very frank, direct, she is not self-conscious; animated; her eyes are like round marbles... She is puzzled at why we don't talk. I said we tried to speak to our parents but it was more comfortable just nodding our heads; words seemed too much. If we were suddenly to talk... it would be too much of a surprise.

It was indeed a surprise to find myself chatting to two eloquent girls last week. "Are you writing?" I asked. "No, only diaries," they both replied. "We're not writing," the doctor explains they had a busy life, mixing with the male patients at discos, bingo and social. On the ward they are still uncommunicative. "Why don't you talk like this all the time?" the nurse asked. They smiled. "We do. To some people."

The authorities at Broadmoor are cautious about the twins' apparent progress. Last month they successfully opposed an application for their release at a mental health tribunal; the girls are thus certain to spend at least another year in custody. They seem to enjoy playing the system, said a member of staff. "The system to have decided to adopt a new strategy with us, but they are still totally immature and make inappropriate responses."

For three years I have searched for clues to the twins' strange behaviour. I have now talked to almost everyone who knew them and read over a million words of their diaries. But I have still failed to solve the final mystery. What first made them choose silence as their weapon against the world?

The *Silent Twins* by Marjorie Wallace will be published on February 6 by Chatto & Windus (£10.95). The film "The Silent Twins" will be screened on BBC2 next Sunday at 10.10pm.

Lives coloured by depression

"The blues is a one-way ticket from yourself to nowhere", is the latest line ever written to those of us plagued by what a fictional heroine of Truman Capote's called the Mean Reds. The Mean Reds first came and got me when I was 21 - married to a charming man, living in a pretty house and member of a five-month-old club, who behaved as if he'd been personally guided by Dr Spock. In spite of these manifold blessings, I walked into the linen cupboard, lay my head on a pile of folded nappies and cried my heart out for no reason that I or anybody else could work out.

That's the trouble with the Mean Reds, or the blues, or, as the medical profession colourlessly calls it, depression. It can descend on you like a blanket of fog right out of nowhere and there's nothing you can do about it except go along for the ride until the fog clears and you suddenly find that you have a return ticket back to your normal self.

I once tried to comfort a fellow-sufferer, a writer and actress whose performance in print and on stage have a heart-tugging vulnerability. "Maybe", I said as she lay quivering beneath the duvet, "being a depressive is the price you pay for your talent. Wouldn't you rather be the person you are than move around in a constant flow of placid serenity but without any special gifts?"

She said that a daily dose of placid serenity sounded fine to her, even if it meant she never took another curtain-call for the rest of her life.

I should have known better than to ask her to think positively. The last thing that you are able to do when overwhelmed by depression is to ponder that there is always some one worse off than you. At such times, the world seems full of seeming heroes whose lives are filled with sunshine. Much better to gnash your teeth on imagined grievances, your own and other people's.

Witty books shake the blues away

I once helped a favourite sister-in-law rise from her bed of mental anguish by giving her Nora Ephron's novel *Heartburn*. Reading about a man who bought his mistress a necklace while his wife was giving birth made her feel much better.

Witty books without a trace of earnestness are the best companions to take along on a trip with the Mean Reds. Lady Diana Cooper's autobiographies, Evelyn Waugh's *A Handful of Dust* and just about anything by Anthony Powell have shaken the blues away throughout my adult life, less by demonstrating that it's possible to stand outside yourself instead of getting involved in dense battles with your psyche.

What one learns, in time, is that one is always in remission. Just as a reformed alcoholic must always walk quickly past a pub before the smell of gin and tonic tickles his nostrils, so must a depressive avoid people and places that are likely to make the fog come down. And she, or he, must do this even on days when the heart leaps with joy.



PENNY PERRICK

Everyone has to work out their own list of tristesses-triggers. Mine includes people who wear cooking-timers on cords around their neck and rush off to taste the meat in a Pavlovian reaction to its "ting-ting". How; black-tie dinner parties and plays by Peter Shaffer.

The problem is that a predictable onslaught of sickness of the soul is not regarded as a good reason for not doing something. This is unfair. People who catch cold easily are allowed to avoid cold country weekends, for fear that their noses will stream for weeks afterwards. People who catch the blues at the drop of a hat find it hard to decline unwelcome invitations on the grounds that Sunday lunch at the sailing club with women in perms and gored woolen skirts will bring on a lengthy attack of the Mean Reds.

As my actress/writer friend plaintively put it: "If I needed a hysterectomy, I could tell everyone. Because I need antidepressants, I can't."

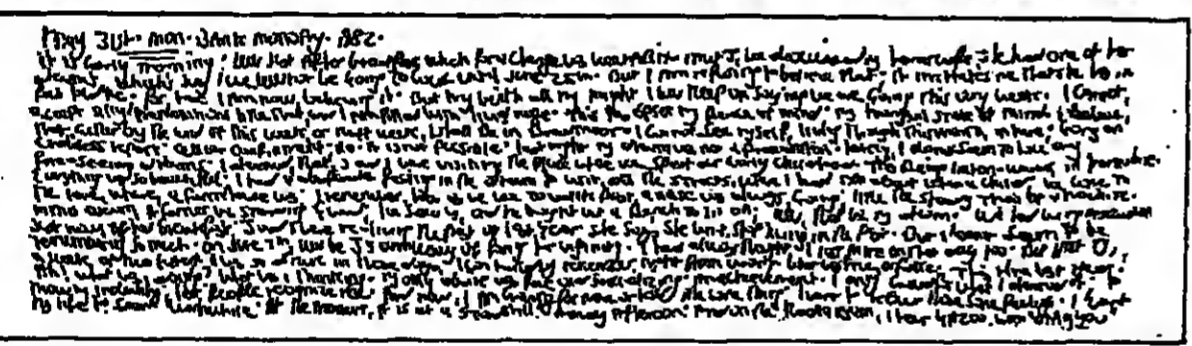
Like everyone else who has howled in the linen cupboard without the excuse of genuine grief, I wish that some good fairy had come to my christening and given me the gift of bags of equanimity. But since she didn't, I must accept the Mean Reds as my lot. But only part of my lot.

For to be depressed occasionally doesn't mean that one is permanently gloom and, during the generous reprieves from the one-way-ticket-to-nowhere times I think I achieve more blissful states than the permanently composed can imagine.

In health matters, as in so much else, I always seem to be out of step. When everyone else was munching Valium, I was drinking disgusting herbal teas and breathing deeply. When everyone else had epidurals, I was grunting my way through natural childbirth.

Now everyone else, including the Prince of Wales, has taken a shine to low-tech methods of healing and I'm going right off it. It's not so much the carrot juice, it's the language that is getting me down.

I have just come across an advertisement proclaiming the merits of something called "Alive Polarity". I don't know what it is, but just hearing about it is suddenly making me feel ill.



Revelations: some of the thousands of barely decipherable words in the sisters' diaries (shown actual size). Their past and present lives are described with an extravagant zest and faithfulness

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Keeping the family act together

Actress Irina Brook has the theatre in her blood and is set to be the flavour of 1986

Few people's childhood memories are as unusual as those of Irina Brook. At the age of nine she sat in an abandoned Persian palace watching actors swooping around and making hissing noises under the direction of her father, Peter Brook. A year or so later, she was with the troupe in Africa as they spread their carpet in dusty Saharan villages.

"I took it for granted that that was the way theatre was", she said. "Now that I am acting, it has suddenly struck me how wonderful it actually was and all those years I had never noticed. I saw the company playing the Mahabharata at the Avignon Festival last summer and I thought, 'My God, this really is unique'. I could see why so many actors wanted to work with my father and I suddenly wanted to be in the company. I was really jealous."

Irina seems set to be the flavour of 1986, as two of her films open here in the spring. *The Girl in the Picture*, co-starring John Gordon Sinclair of *Gregory's Girl* fame opens in London in March, around the same time as a psychological thriller, *Heroina*, in which she appears with Oliver Reed.

It was natural that Irina would become an actress. Her mother, Natasha Parry, was a well-known young film star in the Fifties and continued to act in the theatre after marrying Peter Brook. Brook, of course is a legendary figure - a director positively worshipped by his actors, a man who has revolutionized classics. No one who saw his *A Midsummer Night's Dream* or the *Aldwych* in 1971 could ever forget the experience.

Born performer: Irina Brook at work on set

Irina, at 22, bears a strong resemblance to her half-Greek half-Russian mother, with her dark expressive eyes and beautifully sculpted face. She has been acting for four years.

"When I went to New York and got involved in off-Broadway that was really my time of training. In my first play, *Irish Coffee*, I played a vicious young punk. I had actually been cast as a sweet young girl but the actress playing the punk backed out at the last minute and they gave the part to me.

"I was not at all right for it at first, but they kept telling me: 'You must be more nasty, and eventually I was.'"

She enjoyed living there and might have stayed indefinitely, but Brook pere came by one day, watched her act, and offered her the part of Anya in the production of *The Cherry Orchard* he was planning in Paris. Natasha Parry was to play Madame Ranevskaya, Anya's mother.

"With my father I was able to detach myself. We always spoke in English at home, but he directed the production in French, and he seemed a totally different person. As a director he has great authority and strength and is also absolutely still. The actors are left free to discover, yet at the same time he is completely directed. I don't know how he does it, but he has found a way - and he does it with humour."

Ever since she can remember, Irina has wanted to work in films. She enrolled on the books of a leading London agent and four films soon followed, of which *Heroina* and *The Girl in the Picture* are the latest.

Heroina is a curious film. It is scripted and directed by Paul Mayersberg, best known for his screenplays for *The Man Who Fell to Earth* and *Eureka*. Irina plays a spoilt little rich girl, very much under the thumb of her tycoon father, played by Oliver Reed. She is kidnapped by a gang of young people who decide to indoctrinate her to a less selfish way of life. Despite the parallels, Mayersberg denies that the film bears any resemblance to the Patty Hearst kidnapping.

"Mayersberg, as director, is precise on the physical details of each scene, but the main emotions are down to the actor. You cannot really get it from anyone else in the end. I used to think that directors took you in hand and told you exactly how to do things, and when I first started filming I panicked when nobody told me what to do. Over the last two years I have learnt that you have to be able to direct yourself."

Would she like to return to being directed by her father? "I admire him completely and would love to be involved in that kind of work, but it very much depends on a part being right for me rather than for anyone else. I don't think I am really ready for that work. All the actors in his company are in incredible physical and vocal frame, and they are all very brave. But I am getting braver by the minute."

Clare Colvin

CHRISTIE'S

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Meissen		Burmese
Napoleonic		Muslim
Dieppe		Wedgwood
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Staunton Ivory		Silver & Silver-gilt

To coincide with the 1986 Chess Collectors International Congress to be held in London, 15-19 May, Christie's will be including fine chess sets in a sale on 21 May. Closing date for entries will be the beginning of March. Owners of fine chess sets wishing to include their property should contact Mary Feilden before this date.

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THE TIMES DIARY

A bridge too many

Film producer David Putnam, newly-appointed president of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, seems particularly concerned to preserve one small corner of rural Wiltshire. He has, it is alleged, rerouted without permission a footpath that passes right by his converted watermill in the village of Little Somerford. A fence and gates have been erected, and signs suggesting the public use another path and bridge that has been constructed "at enormous expense" on the other side of his home, Chippenham Ramblers' Association has now drawn this to the attention of North Wilt District Council. The council, a spokesman tells me, will be writing to the great environmentalist suggesting he submit a formal application without delay. Putnam is puffed at the allegation. The route of the original footpath, he says, has never been established.

Dominoggo

Can it really be - a charity gala to be attended by the Prince and Princess of Wales with seats unsold? Glam organizers of the Verdi Requiem at the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday in aid of Mexican earthquake victims admit that sales of the pricier tickets have been hit by the pull-out of Placido Domingo, in hospital with a double hernia. They have not been much cheered either by the unfortunate wording of advertisements in the weekend press apparently expressing regret at his replacement as conductor by Sir Charles Mackerras.

Only award plaque to be proudly displayed in the foyer of the BBC's Lime Grove current affairs studios? A Royal Television Society going for Rough Justice, whose future is in the balance following the suspension of its producer and a reporter criticized by the Lord Chief Justice for potting pressure on an interviewee.

Free flowing

Labour MP David Winnick, who recently asked the Speaker about MPs' financial interests in Channel Tunnel consortia, holds his integrity dear: he has just returned a pen given by Gallup Polls as an inducement to complete a questionnaire. Others are less fussy. Gallup MD Gordon Heald tells me one former prime minister's secretary has phoned asking for more of the Parker ballpoints and a Tory MP asking for £500 before he takes his new pen to the question form.



'Luckily I've just been sacked'

Rematch

Civil Service union leader Alistair Graham has accepted an invitation to a return bout with Geoffrey Millants. Graham's attack last autumn on Militant tendency in the union's north-east branches did not enmesh him to local union officials. They have now asked him to a meeting of members in Newcastle on January 20. "A lot of our people are bitterly upset about the allegations he has been making and will doubtless speak their minds", warns Doreen Purvis, a full-time union official and Militant supporter.

Wye?

Loony plans are not restricted to the GLC: to make Ross-on-Wye more picturesque, the surveyors department of the Hereford and Worcester County Council wants to remove signposts in the town. Alarmed locals have protested that visitors will get totally lost. Not so, say the council's bright sparks: both the by-pass and the railway are close by and would keep their signs.

It won't wash

Dutch trawler skipper Robert Arensman must have thought he had an unanswerable defence when he appeared in a North Shields court last week charged with using undersized mesh nets in British waters. "My nets shrank," Unimpressed, magistrates fined him £1,000.

Infidelity

Devastating news for the Cuban economy - Fidel Castro has stopped smoking cigars and drinking coffee on health grounds. All was revealed during an interview with 58-year-old Castro on Brazilian TV the other day when the presenter noted with surprise that he had not lit up his customary cigar. "I've given up," Castro said, "as an example to the Cuban people" - and he has renounced coffee because it is unhealthy too. PHS

Why Matron is sorely missed

by Trevor Clay

A defibrillator is a device which delivers a short sharp shock to a failing heart in order to restore its normal beat. Its potential for success depends on the presence of trained staff to operate it and perform other resuscitative functions within seconds - at most, 180 of them. It would seem a perverse economy to expect two hospitals a mile and a half apart to share a single machine. But this is exactly what was recently proposed by a National Health Service district general manager in the north-west of England. Because hearts and indeed other body organs are not selective when they fail, nurses, like doctors, provide a 24-hour service. Yet a number of NHS unit general managers with their eyes on overtime rates paid to nurses for work at night and weekends have proposed, and in places insisted on, the reduction in nursing cover during those periods to levels which, the Royal College of Nursing believes, actually put patients at risk - and not only those who are acutely ill. Nearly two years ago the government endorsed the report of an inquiry into NHS management led by Roy Griffiths, managing director of Sainsbury's. Its most potent observation was that the NHS needed at each level a single figure on whose desk the buck would

finally stop. So that, to adapt a phrase from the report, "if Florence Nightingale were carrying her lamp through the corridors of the NHS today", she would very quickly light upon the people in charge. The College was not convinced that the fundamental shake-up in NHS management structure proposed by Griffiths was necessary. Until 1984 the NHS had operated under consensus management through teams of functional managers - an administrator, a treasurer, a doctor and a nurse. The College valued the capacity of this arrangement to accommodate and balance the sometimes conflicting interests of different disciplines, even if it acknowledged that this was not always the fastest way to make a decision. Once it was clear, however, that the government was determined to implement Griffiths whatever the criticisms raised, the College accepted it and indeed urged its 250,000 members, in the interests of patient care, to approach the changes positively. The College's reluctant readiness to make the best of Griffiths, however, has rebounded on it. Griffiths, it is now clear, has put the

nursing profession back 50 years. The "nursing adviser" at a senior management level whose main responsibility would be the provision and quality of nursing advice to the health authority - the post promised by the Secretary of State for Social Services, Norman Fowler, in November 1984 - has failed to materialize. What we now have instead is a cadre of general managers at regional and district level who have stripped away virtually all responsibility for the management of patient care from the very people who had their employment terminated but many have "lost" their jobs as they had known and developed them. The nurse manager is now largely powerless to insist on levels of staffing, particularly of qualified staff, which she or he alone is professionally qualified to pronounce as safe; powerless to insist that patients who do not "belong" in a particular ward, by virtue of age, sex or type of infirmity, should not be admitted there; powerless to insist upon the provision of types of specialist facilities and equipment

which the nurse above all knows will speed patient recovery. Equally disturbing is the effect that the erosion of this role will have on the authority of the ward sister, the key professional to whom the confused or frightened patient could always relate. The nursing profession views with alarm the threat to the ward sister posed by the rumoured introduction of mini-general managers at ward level. In the past, line authority may have stopped at the old-style matron, but her informal status was such that it was a foolhardy administrator or doctor who questioned matron's authority within her own professional realm. The patients may have quaked, along with the junior nurses whom she did her rounds but at least they knew she was on their side. The College does not want to put the clock back but does want to see the return of such a figure. The Griffiths review so that there is a director of nursing services in every hospital, clinic and health unit with the experience to take the humane view - and the power to take decisions that put the patient, not the balance-sheet, first. The author is general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing.

Battle within a battle: David Felton on the inter-union conflict as Rupert Murdoch throws down a gauntlet to the printers

Wapping: will the electricians turn up the heat?



Hammond: anxious to stay, but not at any price

Willis: a warning not to go it alone

News International negotiators will certainly press for decisive TUC action against the electricians, including suspension or expulsion, if the deal excludes others of the 5,500-strong News International workforce. But there is some doubt in union circles whether the EETPU is really looking for union "martyrdom". Hammond has hinted that if it was a choice of a deal with Murdoch or staying inside the TUC he would recommend the latter course to his executive. That in itself may not be sufficient. There is talk of growing tension among the leadership of the electricians' union, and Hammond himself jokes that compared with his executive he is a pacifist towards the TUC. Some observers believe that there may be many a true word in the jest. In particular there are thought to be some on the executive who would like see an end to links with a "collaborationist" Congress House bureaucracy, which stands

accused of giving succour to the electricians' enemies. Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, has "advised" Hammond and his colleagues that to go it alone with News International would be against the interests of the rest of the labour movement. Outright defiance by the electricians and a continuation of their "marauding style", as one trade union official put it, would probably finally exhaust the patience of the other members of the TUC general council. The present isolation of the electricians is in marked contrast to the situation when the EETPU clashed with Sogat in the summer of 1983, and more recently in the TUC row over the acceptance of state funds for ballots. In the former incident a majority of the TUC general council had been assembled to suspend Sogat if it continued defying orders to return the left-led Fleet Street electricians'

branch to the EETPU. The union's current stance ranks with people who supported it then, and accusations of inconsistency are now being made by general council members. There is a growing feeling in the labour movement that the EETPU would be using the TUC when it suits and ignoring it when there is a conflict with its almost evangelical drive to modernize its operations, improve services for members and increase its influence. Hammond believes that a kind of free market should exist in the union movement to enable workers to choose the union of their own choice. Abolition of the TUC's anti-union Bridlington rules would, he concedes, lead to an initial period of difficulty and perhaps chaos, but would in the long term benefit the union movement and its members. The electricians' growing links with the breakaway miners' union, which is unlikely to be recognized by the TUC and thus the Labour Party, is also a cause of some anguish in the labour movement, but as the criticism is being led by Arthur Scargill, Hammond can expect more support within the TUC on that issue. Some members of the general council believe that eventually the UDM will have to be recognized and one way being suggested is for it to merge with the EETPU. Leaders of both organizations deny that plans exist for such a link-up. Indeed, a merger might make more sense if the EETPU was to be expelled from the TUC and if it tried to establish an alternative centre of union influence. The prospects of such a development, however, appear remote.

Yet in the wake of the miners' strike the challenge to the union movement has never been stronger. The "new pragmatism" is gaining ground, particularly in the need seen by many to moderate opposition to the government's employment legislation, and employers in many industries are now able to secure deals that guarantee industrial peace. Fleet Street is one of the last remaining bastions of old-fashioned union strength, but that could soon change. The appearance of Eddy Shah on the national newspaper scene with his low-cost, high-tech colour daily due to be launched early in March has created a new psychological climate. Rupert Murdoch's proposals mark the greatest challenge to the influence of the print unions in decades. There are not many people willing to take money that the revolution in the newspaper industry will be achieved without blood being spilt.

The author is labour correspondent of The Times.

Vive l'unité - French Canada's new cry

Ottawa Separatists and French-language militants, who have been in the ascendancy in Quebec for the better part of a decade, appear to be in retreat, although no one would be so rash as to say they have been defeated. To a staunch Canadian federalist, 1985 brought nothing but good news from the predominantly French-speaking province of 6.5 million people, culminating in December 2 with the Liberal victory in the provincial general election after nine years of rule by the separatist-minded Parti Quebecois (PQ). The "Pequistes" had shelved the goal of independence in recognition of its increasing irrelevance to the daily concerns of most Quebecers. But they still could not shake off their image as, fundamentally, a separatist party. Symbols of the new spirit of federalism were not hard to find after the Liberals under Robert Bourassa, the new premier, took office. In an inaugural address to the National Assembly, Mrs Lise Bacon, the vice-premier, spoke partly in English - the first time English had been used in the traditional address since 1976. Also, for the first time since then, the red and white flag of Canada was prominent alongside Quebec's flag emblazoned with the fleur-de-lis. Bourassa followed these symbolic gestures with an announcement of his government's intention to discontinue presentations under Bill 101, passed in 1977 and sometimes referred to as Quebec's French-language charter, forbidding the displaying of non-French signs on stores, institutions or even public buildings. There are exceptions, but they are limited. Several hundred people have been fined for breaking this law, some more than once, and a number of municipalities with sizable English populations discreetly sought ways



Montreal flea market: soon they can say it in English

to circumvent it from the beginning. The Quebec Superior Court has already struck down parts of the statute as being in conflict with the province's human rights charter, which guarantees freedom of expression. An appeal has been lodged, however, and the issue could end up in the Supreme Court of Canada, which last July declared restrictions on English-language schools, set out in Bill 101, unconstitutional. Bourassa's decision to halt such prosecutions removes, at least for the time being, a major source of irritation for English speakers, who account for about a fifth of Quebec's population. However, French-language purists are unhappy. The Conseil de la Langue Française, a government agency concerned with long-term language policies, warned recently that French is in a "precarious" position in the province and urged that non-French signs should not be allowed to proliferate. The Commission de la Langue Française, which has the job of

enforcing Bill 101 (and is sometimes referred to as the "Language Police"), warned that Quebec was regressing rather than advancing as a home of the French language in North America. The reality is that French cannot help being under siege in Quebec, no matter what steps are taken to ensure its survival. The province is a mere French-language island in a North American sea of more than 250 million, the vast majority of whom speak English. Admittedly, during the last decade or so more English-speaking Canadian children have been learning French, sometimes in French-language schools but more often in English schools that offer "immersion" courses. French has become fashionable largely because of the policies of the former prime minister, Pierre Trudeau, who created a public awareness of Canada's rich, bicultural heritage. It remains true, however, that a far greater proportion of French Quebecers learn to speak English than non-Quebecers learn to speak

French. This is partly because of the continuing English domination of many aspects of Quebec's industrial and business life. Hardcore Quebec nationalists resent this. For all that, Quebec is a much more self-confident place today than it was nine years ago. Bourassa, an economist and dedicated federalist, is experiencing this new sense of security in trying to take Quebec back into the mainstream of Canadian political life. He has set himself a deadline - the next federal election, likely in 1988 - for concluding a constitutional settlement with Ottawa. Because of a dispute over provincial rights Quebec still has not acceded to the new constitution proclaimed by the Queen in 1982. His government has proclaimed the rebirth of private enterprise in a province grown tired of the PQ's creeping socialism. "The state is no longer and will no longer be as much as before the driving force of social change," said the inaugural address, in words calculated to appeal to Quebec's increasingly restless and assertive business class. With this attitude, and his sceptical view of language laws which drove many factories and head offices out of Montreal during the PQ regime, Bourassa may quickly start pulling investment dollars back into Quebec. Suddenly, therefore, Quebec separatism has come to seem like something buried in the deep past. Yet PQ was not the first sovereignty-minded movement to sprout in the province and it probably won't be the last. Outbreaks of extreme nationalism, tinged with separatism, have been a recurring feature of Quebec's 118-year-old membership of the Canadian confederation. They are, in fact, a cyclical phenomenon.

John Best

Anne Sofer Ripple that should be a flood

An intriguing aspect of the Westland affair - and with it Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet style - has so far passed without comment that the departure to the Tory back benches of even only minister capable of even sounding as if he cared about the inner cities should have coincided with the death of Tory MP Martin Stevens, precipitating a by-election in the London inner city seat of Fulham. No doubt the Cabinet rift over Westland will be the main issue in the by-election, yet sooner or later the inner city debate will bubble up again. Where will Michael Heseltine be then? Silent on the sidelines, or putting the knife into the Tories' inadequacies? The latter, more likely, if the performance of the last few days is anything to go by. Discussions about the inner city tend to end up sounding like a long, white or boring rant, so let me try something new by describing two recent visits to inner city institutions that are actually growing.

The first was the engineering and computing block of a polytechnic, a brutalist glass and concrete building with a feel about it of Tomorrow's World. As you walk in you can almost hear, subliminally, the programme's electronic theme music, and everywhere there are screens and plastic keyboards. The lectures / students / researchers / seconded business personnel are indistinguishable in open shirts and track shoes, all part of the building with a dauntingly purposeful economy of time and movement. "Leading edge," you think, "technological breakthrough."

This is one of the few educational institutions in Britain that has benefited from government initiatives, and is also pulling in a fair amount of investment from the private sector. There is a plethora of new courses, and ideas for new courses, and a creative restlessness to get them going. The other institution I visited was the Roundhouse, the huge Victorian locomotive shed that squats near the Euston shunting yards. It is a listed building and a local landmark, but has been allowed over the last three decades to become dirty and dilapidated. Now it is shrouded in scaffolding and tarpaulin while an £8 million rehabilitation programme (GLC and Camden funded) is carried out. The entire inside has been stripped out and despite the builders' rubble and the mud it is an exhilarating sight - like a great darkened, expectant cathedral.

The Roundhouse is to become the first black arts centre, not just in Britain but (according to its creators) in the world. Local residents and traders were at first hostile, imagining no doubt an invasion of young people with dreadlocks playing loud reggae music into the early hours. Now they are being won round by the grandeur of the concept; a centre for the cultivation of the arts of all the ethnic minorities in Britain - three theatres, a cinema, recording studios, dance studios, restaurants. The two institutions, and the people who run them, are in many ways very different. They represent what we have come to regard as antitheses: technology versus the arts, Conservative versus Labour spending priorities, the advance of western capitalism versus the demands of the Third World. Yet,

visiting them, I was far more conscious of similarities. For a start, both visits cheered me up. Usually, as a politician, I am invited to visit, to applaud institutions resisting closure, or to sound an appealingly designed, or angry campaign, insisting fighting the forces of bureaucracy. To see a better mood than contractions sounds so self-evident as to be almost it is not just the statistics of the jobs created, the better facilities provided - but the ripple effect of the waves of enthusiasm that spread out from new ventures. Inner cities need that ripple effect quite as much as they need jobs. Secondly, both institutions took it for granted that they should be dependent on both private and public sources of funding. Both saw part of their role in being as creative and enterprising as possible in putting the two together and in retaining good relations with sponsors of both sorts. So many of the debates on which politicians expend huge amounts of time and energy on privatization, municipalization, the ethics of business sponsorship of the arts, the "invasion" of business into education - appear in this context to be pointlessly polarized. Of course, industry and municipal government must work in partnership, and central government must promote the partnership - that was the unspoken message. Other countries big cities do it; our own big cities happier times did it. It is only the current political passion for "taking sides" that has turned this into a tug of war. Finally, I was made deeply conscious that both institutions depended crucially on capital investment, buildings and modern equipment, and that this was both a practical and (if you like) a spiritual need. Their success depended on what they were striving for. It represented their faith in society and society's faith in them. The infrastructure spending for which there is much clamour is needed for more than drains and better insulation.

I find it strange that the Church's Faith in the City, so excellent in its social and economic recommendations, has so little to say about the aesthetic and spiritual contribution to be made by city architecture, particularly since this is one of its own proudest historic achievements. It was after all the towers, domes, theatres and temples of London that inspired Westminster, standing at dawn on Westminster Bridge. (If he were alive today, I would recommend the then unbuilt Waterloo Bridge as commanding an even more beautiful view; all the city churches to the east and Parliament round the swoop of the river to the south-west. I would also suggest that dusk is an even more heart-stopping moment than dawn.) A city that ceases to build other than for the mere purposes of work and shelter ceases to live. Optimism, excitement, imagination are all there, under the surface, waiting to be stirred - as my two visits made reassuringly plain. But at present these are rare exceptions. The author is SDP member of the GLC/ILEA for St Pancras North.

moreover... Miles Kington More napping than kidded

What is it like to be kidnapped? What is it like, especially, to be subject of a senseless kidnapping for motives you do not understand? Very few of us will ever know at first hand, so today I am publishing a transcript of part of a real kidnap ordeal. It is absolutely genuine, and covers just one day, in remorseless detail. The kidnap victim was kept in a small room in a big block in a large city. He had a chair, a table and some papers, but very little else. He was mostly alone, except when visited by a captor. 10.33am Victim: (talking to himself and shuffling some papers) I really think I am going mad. I really think I am going out of my mind. Day after day, cooped up in this tiny... They are driving me round the bend. But I won't crack. I won't give them that satisfaction. (He talks to a small pot plant on the table.) Poor little flower, doomed to live and die indoors. I know how you feel. 10.45am Victim: This is driving me crazy. I can't take much more of this. If only I knew what they wanted! (The door opens and a captor enters.) What do you want? Captor: We want answers to our questions. Victim: I can't give them to you. Captor: You can wait until you can, though not for ever. Victim: Tell me the questions again. Captor: How many millions of paper cups did we use last year, and how many will we need next year? Victim: I don't know, I tell you! Captor: Then you will have to stay here till you do. 12.40pm Captor: (re-entering) I have brought you some sandwiches and a coffee. That will keep you going through the afternoon. Are you prepared to tell us about the paper cups yet? Victim: No! I can't, yet. My God, how long have I been here? Captor: Today, or altogether? Victim: Altogether. Captor: Nearly two years now. Victim: It's even worse than I thought. Tell me: who do you work for?

Captor: Unified Caterers Ltd, same as you. Victim: But who controls you? Who are the faceless men behind it all? Captor: Someone in the City. Rank Hovis Xerox. Grand Metropolitan. I don't know - who cares? Just give us the answers? 2.14pm Captor: Well, how goes it? Victim: (in some distress) I want to talk to my wife and children. Captor: Go ahead, phone them. We are not monsters, you know. But be tactful. Very tactful. Victim: (dialling one) Darling? Hello, it's me. Yes, I'm fine... fine. Yes, usual time, at the station. What? Oh good, I like lasagna. That will be lovely. No, I can't say anything. There's... someone with me. Ok, all right. I love you now. (He rings off.) Captor: Good. Now, in return, how about some answers on the paper cups? Victim: I don't know anything about your bloody paper cups! I haven't got the figures! Captor: You should have. You've been working on it for two weeks now, and nothing to show for it. You wouldn't want us to think you were... incompetent, would you? Victim: What if I totally refused to co-operate? What if I said you would never get the answers from me? Captor: Then you could leave here straightaway. And we'd get someone else in to do it. Victim: Someone else? If I were released, you'd condemn some other poor wretch to go through this ordeal? I couldn't let that happen. I must go through with it myself! Captor: Well, for God's sake, get on with it, Rogers! 3.50pm Captor: Have you got those answers yet? Rogers! Wake up! You're fast asleep! (He shakes the victim roughly awake and storms out.) Victim: (to himself) They will not let me even sleep. Now they are beginning to use violence. They are trying to frighten me, but I will not crack, never, never. I will not let these faceless men grind me down. Oh God, what is the way out, the way out. (He pours his cold coffee into his pot plant. It dies. He bursts into tears. He goes to sleep again.)



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FLAT JUSTITIA

Tomorrow a noteworthy case begins in the High Court. The names of the plaintiffs are many and, excepting the celebrity of Mr Derek Hanton and Mr Ted Knight, obscure and provincial. Yet the adjudication in this suit brought against the district auditors for the borough of Lambeth and the City of Liverpool by Labour councillors will be tried by the new municipal socialism. It will be judging the conduct of a geolocation of Labour politicians who in pursuit of their version of the higher good have chosen to disregard established procedures and conventions of local government.

Some four years ago the same court turned down the metropolitan district auditor when he charged that the Labour councillors who ran Camden, among them Mr Ken Livingstone, had been not only profligate but had acted contrary to law. That decision gave a green light to conduct in a number of urban local authorities which has embarrassed defenders of the principles of local self-government and encouraged those calling for further centralization of the administration of Britain. Some might hope that the court will undo its previous work. Perhaps it will define anew limits to local politicking and so obviate Mr David Widdicombe's committee of inquiry. Whatever the court says, it will be making a judgement about the legitimate distribution of power in society. In short it will be engaging in politics.

Is that such a damning cooession? A standard criticism of the courts is that they trespass in political matters. It usually comes from the left; however the facility with which Labour councils have repaired to the Strand in recent years to enlist the courts' aid in their battles with the Government has stilled that source. Instead the criticism has been amplified in speeches by ministers, notably that a month ago by Mr Barney Hayhoe on which he seemed to sum up the resentment of several secretaries of state that a succession of judgements had gone against them. From left or right, the criticism is misconceived.

An old, and surely uncontroversial function of the court is to determine where the arena of public law begins, within which its adjudications are to be made.

It may fall to the court to determine where politics (for example, the discretionary decision-making of ministers or councillors) ends and administration (government by rule and statute) begins. Unless the maps are clear, this exercise in the geography of power will tend to pit the court against the politicians. The boundary will always be labile, because the court should always have some capacity to subject the activities of the public officials to review on the grounds of their common-or-garden reasonableness. In 1985, as in recent years, the court was busy because this boundary has become particularly unstable.

Mr Hayhoe ascribed this activism to a "tendency" on the part of the courts. A better reading would look to the politicians. The court has been buffeted by two waves, one of shorter, one of longer duration. Relations between central and local government have become unstable, partly because of the arrival in power of left-Labour politicians who have sought to overthrow the rules of the game, partly because ministers in their determination to control local expenditures have created a web of new rules and discretions. The courts have been caught in the middle, attempting to apply the traditional rules to councillors and ministers alike.

A second pressure has come from within Mrs Thatcher's Government. Committed, at least in its rhetoric, to some shrinkage, some "rolling back" of the powers of the State, the government has on several recent occasions attempted a short cut. Instead of painful surgery on public services, ministers have tried to achieve their objectives of retrenchment and administrative simplification with the aid of local anaesthetic - quick and closet use of ministerial prerogative. Mr Fowler, Mr Ridley, Mr Jenkin, Sir Keith Joseph: last year the court found them all out, not so much in attempting ministerial grandeur as in trying to achieve a political (and often laudable) objective by inadequate, indeed unlawful administrative means.

The failure here is Parliament's. It is a failure of draftsmanship. In the case brought by Leicester district council against the Secretary of State for the Environment over proper procedures under the Rates Act, Mr Justice Woolfe said politely that

it was "surprising" that a section of the Act had been clumsily drafted. (So clumsily indeed that the word Parliament was taken as synonymous with House of Commons.) There are other examples where legislative language has been passed in ambiguity. But such failures are not to be blamed on technicians in the House of Commons. They are also failures of scrutiny, failure of the Houses of Parliament as a forensic institution and as a guardian against executive heavy-handedness.

When the Federation of Optical Corporate Bodies challenged Mr Fowler over his attempt to make a retrospective levy on their receipts from the National Health Service, Mr Justice Macpherson found he had invented a power for himself. There had, in short, been an increase in the quantum of executive power enjoyed by the Secretary of State for Social Services - and that increase should have been measured out with the most finely calibrated instruments by the only body capable of such measurement, Parliament. Support for Mr Fowler's objective, which was fully in keeping with the government's policies, evidently blinded his Parliamentary supporters to his methods. The judgement of the court in this case - similar to that involving Mr Fowler's power to alter arrangements for board and lodging payments - provided instruction for further study; it said much about the functions of Members of Parliament and their committees.

Where Parliament cannot or will not dispose, where the executive power of the State is unclearly expressed in statute, where ministers take an easy way out through dubious regulations and where councillors kick against the traces - there is a role for the court and the description of its work as "political" is neither here nor there. The balance of recent decisions (ministers have won as often as they have lost; ambitious councillors have been repulsed) suggests no judicial plot. In an end-of-year case involving municipal affairs Lord Scarman had some wise words for his colleagues on how far their exploration of political decision making should go. But this terrain is rough and there are many miles to go before the judges need to be recalled from their expedition.

NOT JUST BECAUSE IT'S THERE

Is it ever worth it? When oews of the loss of Captain Scott and his team reached London, it was the first question asked. He had got there "first", and he and four others died, one of concussion, the others of "want and exposure". But they had achieved the goal of the South Pole, in furtherance of settling unsolved problems of geography, natural history and other sciences, and tributes to their gallantry and effort quickly pushed the question aside.

It is asked again with the achievement of three British explorers at the South Pole in Captain Scott's footsteps. Fortunately, this time there is no loss of life. But there has been much effort and worry expended on the rescue operation. And even before that occurred, there were questions about the scientific relevance of the whole expedition.

In the event, American assistance at the crucial time prevented a disaster of greater magnitude. The swift (within an hour) arrival of helicopters to take off the stricken crew of the support vessel must have provided an exciting interlude in what is the endlessly heavy-going monotony of Antarctica. It was better than an exercise, and it worked. Success is its own reward.

Achievement is another matter. What did they actually achieve? Should they have gone in the first place? Was it really relevant?

Exploration has always been seen as the purview of a

jealously-guarded inner circle. No major expedition is ever pursued outside that network without criticism from within the club about "amateurs" and "ill-founded, ill-funded or ill-supported" projects. Scientists imply that the unknown is too important, too dangerous and too sophisticated to be left to anyone but themselves, and justify their criticism when things go wrong.

On this occasion, they have had half an opportunity to get in with complaints; (thankfully there was nothing that gave them greater apparent vindication). But this was no mid-blizzard amble across the Black Mountains of Wales by city dwellers wearing shorts, no venture down a pot-hole in the face of floods underground by Boy Scouts carrying bicycle torches, no cross-Channel sponsored row in a bath-tub by armchair sailors. It was carefully researched, planned and supported; the fact that the back-up ship was in touch, and that not a single injury was sustained, is evidence enough of that.

And it was of use. The scientific components were not "completely absent", as was suggested yesterday but were all there. As an integral part of the project, they ranged from testing physical and mental stress in extreme conditions. Could the nub of the matter be that this was not only a "private" expedition, but that it was funded under the patronage of such meaningful names as Scott and

Shackleton by "private enterprise"?

Captain James Cook thought 200 years ago that the "world will derive no benefit" from Antarctica. Yet, even before we get into the real arguments between environmentalists and resource-exploiters on the lines of the greas versus planners row that has just surfaced in the squabble between Mr Jopling and Mr Waldegrave this month, we have to acknowledge that there is a potential enormous benefit in those frozen wastes. Minerals are there, and food (in the shape of krill). The flag-fliers of both hemispheres are thus down there in force maintaining a presence to record an interest in any future exploitation.

That will not begin before 1991, when the 18 countries who are party to the Antarctic Treaty can put up proposals for commercial development. Meanwhile there is a voluntary moratorium even on mineral exploration at the moment, in the absence of an international convention on Antarctic minerals as exists for continental sea resources. The merciful escape of the crew of Southern Quest, coupled with the other good news that their gallant three walkers made the trip successfully, ought to achieve one positive thing, and even the scientists cannot gainsay it. It will focus the world's attention on its most inhospitable corner, and remind us that we have decisions to make in the next five years. And who can say that private enterprise needs to be frozen out?

prepared workforce educated and trained to national standards. This implies a more detailed attention by employers to their investment in people and their continued training and updating.

In achieving this aim ministers should avoid a costly "reinventing of the wheel". Much that is relevant has been done already to set the stage in vocational education and training. In my view it is possible to move more quickly than the article reported by building upon the work of the Business & Technician Education Council, the City & Guilds of London Institute and others.

Yours faithfully,
H. N. RAINE, Chairman,
Business & Technician Education Council,
Central House,
Upper Woburn Place, WC1.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No takers for scientific places

From Professor J. M. Irvine
Sir, Over the past few months there has been a plethora of reports bemoaning the state of British science and technology. The argument has usually been made that our problems stem from a lack of money.

If indeed money were the only problem, the situation facing the country would not be nearly as disastrous as is the case. In many areas the shortage of money is secondary to the shortage of skilled manpower.

In response to this shortage, the Secretary of State for Education and Science has announced several new initiatives, particularly in engineering and technology, including the creation of several thousand extra student places. The problem is that he has not created a single extra student.

At the universities and polytechnics are to produce graduates in the physical sciences, engineering and technology to the present degree standards, within the constraints of a three-year undergraduate course, they must select their intake from a pool of educated to at least the standards of the present A-level qualifications in mathematics and physics.

The size of this pool is essentially static and will soon begin to decline for general demographic reasons unless some drastic action is taken. Already the shortage of applicants has led to a situation where few, if any, of the polytechnics still offer a degree course in physics and this condition is now spreading to the universities.

The universities and polytechnics have the capacity to absorb at least a 20 per cent increase in the number of undergraduates in the physical sciences and engineering within their present buildings and staffing levels, if only suitably qualified applicants could be found.

There are two approaches to the problem: either the universities can reduce their entrance requirements, or the number of school leavers qualified in mathematics and physics must be increased. The former

approach, would require an extension of undergraduate courses to allow students to reach present degree standards.

There is neither indication that the Government is about to provide the resources necessary for this, nor is it certain that there is a large number of potential students who would wish to take advantage of relaxed entrance requirements. We are left, then, with the need to increase the number of qualified school-leavers.

Our school education system has failed to make the study of physical sciences attractive to girls and to persuade sufficient pupils of the advantages of continuing education beyond the age of 16. A higher percentage of pupils in English schools give up the study of mathematics and physics at an earlier age than in any comparable industrial nation.

A contributory factor must be that more than 80 per cent of our school pupils will never be exposed to a graduate physics teacher. Physics is shortly to disappear from the pre-16 curriculum to be replaced by integrated science courses.

Most of the teachers of the new integrated science courses are unable to have had any formal instruction in mathematics and physics beyond O-level standard. The number of graduate physicists leaving the teaching profession each year is now running at more than three times the entry level.

It has been reported that belatedly the DES has awoken to the crisis and is proposing to offer increased grants to mathematics and physics graduates who undertake teacher training courses. While this may be a start in the right direction, it will not have a major impact as long as the graduate physicist in industry can expect to earn twice as much as his similarly qualified counterpart in the teaching profession.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. IRVINE,
University of Manchester,
Department of Theoretical Physics,
The Schuster Laboratory,
Manchester,
January 3.

Teachers in prison

From Dr Roger Owen and others
Sir, The exodus from Afghanistan of over half the country's educated elite is causing immense damage to prospects of rebuilding its shattered economy and society, after the war ends.

As teachers in the field of Asian studies we feel particular concern about the experience of academics who remain under the government of President Karmal. The decline in academic standards at Kabul University, and of morale among staff levels, has increased sharply since 1982, when independent-minded teachers were arrested, four of whom are known to be still imprisoned. They had reportedly tried to form a university human rights group, in 1982, to help arrested teachers and students.

Three are Professor K. Shukrullah and Professor Osman Rusta, of the law and political sciences department, and Professor Hala, chairman of the journalism department. The fourth, Professor Hassan Kakar, is in the history department, and the subject of one of your "prisoners of conscience" articles (February 28, 1984), is still serving an eight-year term of imprisonment in Pul-e-Charkhi jail. He is 57 and there are grounds for concern about his health.

We feel that Professor Kakar did not exaggerate when he stated at his court trial:
Our arrest created general tension and

insecurity in the university, and even professors and teachers who were politically neutral were forced to flee the country... it will take... decades to replace such losses.

We therefore urge that Professor Kakar be released now, or granted a free and fair trial, and appeal to all people of good will to publicize by all possible means these cases of political imprisonment of teachers and scholars.

Yours etc,
E. R. J. OWEN,
BRIAN V. STREET,
NANCY TAPPER,
RICHARD TAPPER,
2 Crooms Hill Grove, SE10,
January 6.

Wind in the wires

From Mr John P. M. Bensted
Sir, If British Telecom really does away with telegraph poles, a cherished childhood memory will still remain, of the fascination of the "up and down" motion of the telegraph wires seen from the train as it sped through the summer Kentish countryside. But what will become of our exhausted, returning migrant birds, looking for a resting place and, in particular, where will "Buzby" find a place?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN P. M. BENSTED,
Lavington,
Heath Drive,
Walton-on-the-Hill,
Tadworth,
Surrey.

Nuclear waste disposal

From Mr P. A. H. Saunders
Sir, Dr Russell Jones (January 2) appears to have misunderstood the basis on which public exposure to ionising radiation, from nuclear discharges should be compared with those from diagnostic radiography.

Assuming direct proportionality between dose and effects, a cautious assumption, the total harm to the population is independent of the distribution of doses. Nuclear discharges may be causing one or two fatal cancers a year in the UK, diagnostic radiography is probably causing over 100.

Dr Russell Jones is right to point to the need to consider beneficial trade-offs. In the case of the nuclear industry, the benefits, apart from the immediate economic advantages, include the availability of a source of energy that enables precious fossil

resources to be preserved for the manufacture of chemicals, pharmaceuticals and fertilisers, and a method of generating electricity that is environmentally less harmful than any major available alternative. Such benefits may be difficult to quantify, but they are nevertheless real.

Nuclear discharges already constitute the smallest source of public radiation exposure identified by the National Radiological Protection Board. Reducing them further would cost over 300 times as much per man-Sievert saved, as reducing exposure from diagnostic radiography.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. H. SAUNDERS,
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
Director of Environment Branch,
B329 Harwell Laboratory,
Oxfordshire,
January 7.

Airport planning

From Mr D. P. Stanley
Sir, I thought your readers might like to know that we have just completed a major local plan inquiry into the future development of Manchester International Airport. The development is planned to triple the existing size of the airport to approximately 20 million passengers per year over the next 20 years. There were no objections to this growth and the inquiry lasted less than two weeks.

I wonder if the fact we consulted with over 200 organisations in 1982

on our plans to 1990, that we consulted again this year with a similar number of interested parties on our plans to 1995 and that we indicated our willingness to consult yet again in 1988/89 on our plans to the year 2000 was the reason. Each time we modified our plans in accordance with comments received.

Of course, another fundamental reason was one which we at Manchester and other regional airports have been putting forward over the last few years - that is, well founded airport expansion leads to prosperity and an increase in job opportunities in the surrounding areas. That this was grasped by the residents was amply shown when the inspector if anyone objected to airport expansions, the answer was, "No, Sir - it's jobs". At Manchester the balance weighs firmly in the airport's favour.

I wonder if there are any lessons to be learnt from this by other parts of the UK?
Yours faithfully,
D. P. STANLEY,
Director of Development & Planning,
Manchester International Airport Authority, Manchester,
December 30.

Stealing a march in private medicine

From Dr John Studd
Sir, It is to the great discredit of this country that we either fail to recognise that the profitable private medicine sector exists or, for sentimental reasons, are hostile to it. As a consequence we are, in spite of our great reputation for medical education and practice, losing this market to American companies.

American Medical International and Humana Hospitals have more private hospitals in this country than do British companies. The largest private maternity hospitals are American. The largest, but not the most successful, IVF (in-vitro fertilization) centre is American. Most private heart operations are performed in American hospitals.

The prices and hidden charges of these beds are high enough for them to have been an object of a formal protest from the insurance companies. Nevertheless, they work well and should serve as a standard once the complacent British medical world chooses to compete in this service industry. One hopes that it is not too late.

In my own specialty of obstetrics and gynaecology the inventive ideas which we may or may not still be world leaders in this field, but sadly we do not make the machines. Our competitors get the jobs, the advance technology, the international recognition, the profits and we get the bill. There are countless other examples.

For the sake of the future of British medicine there is an urgent need to take corrective action. We have given our electronics and motor cycle industry to Japan, textile industry to the Far East, and shipbuilding to whoever wanted it. It would be too great a disgrace to hand over efficient medical practice to American medical corporations.

I am, yours faithfully,
JOHN STUDD,
King's College School of Medicine and Dentistry,
Denmark Hill, SE5,
January 3.

Milk quotas

From Mr Gilbert Beazley
Sir, The threat to the rural landlord and tenant system suggested by John Anderson (January 2) may be alarmist.

The EEC propose a scheme for further reduction of the milk surplus entitling dairy farmers, whether tenants or owner-occupiers, to financial compensation for surrender of the quota right to produce milk on any particular farm. The compensation is proposed to go to the tenant. However, tenants should beware of accepting such compensation without first obtaining their landlord's approval.

Sound rural land agency practice has for many years seen the need to include a covenant requiring the tenant to maintain basic quotas. Any failure so to do is a breach of the tenancy, entitling the landlord to serve an enforceable notice to quit.

The unilateral acceptance of spoils by the greedy tenant may lead to the jealous landlord's more damning retaliation.
Yours faithfully,
GILBERT BEAZLEY,
Warrington, Chartered Surveyors,
Earlestown Office,
Revelham,
Bedford,
January 3.

Sleepers awake

From Mr A. C. D. Westley
Sir, Professor Fells (December 28) was lucky to have the opportunity of a peaceful night, albeit at right angles to the direction of travel. Had he ventured on to the much-publicised Night Rider, he would have found an extraordinary night train: a train which has the brightest lights of any in the whole of British Rail's stock, the loudest of loudspeakers over each seat, announcing departure for and imminent arrival at such exotic places as Stevenage, Huntingdon, Peterborough, Grantham, etc. - an announcement every 20 to 30 minutes - and if that is not sufficient to keep those who want to sleep awake, the inspection of tickets between 12.30 and 1 am is a further treat!

I would certainly prefer to doze sideways than brave the continuous visual and audible assaults of the Night Rider.
Yours faithfully,
TONY WESTLEY,
Reiniger House,
Swayfield,
Lincolnshire.

India and the British

From Mr S. R. Pavitt
Sir, Lord Glendon asserts (January 8) that the Quit India movement of 1942 fizzled out for lack of popular support. I can assure him that it was still smouldering as late as January 1945.

At Woking Transit Camp, Bombay, our daily newspapers were brought round by Indian vendors crying "Times of India (Quit India)". Their only concession to our feelings was to lower the voice by a few decibels for the political slogan.

Another manifestation was the occasional demerol which slightly delayed our passage to the Burma front.
We bore all this with the fortitude inherited from Clive.
Yours,
S. R. PAVITT,
40 Theydon Park Road,
Theydon Bois,
Essex,
January 8.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 13 1986

HMS Warrior, Britain's first iron-plated fighting ship, was launched in December, 1860 - the most powerful warship in the world, but one which saw no action. In 1929 she was towed to Pembroke to serve as an off-boat jerry. In 1975 the Maritime Trust became owner and she was towed to Hartlepool to be restored, a task expected to be completed this year when she will return to her old base at Portsmouth.

THE IRON-CASED FRIGATE WARRIOR

The vessel now building at Blackwall, and of the progress made with which we propose now to inform our readers, was originally intended for an iron-cased steam train; that is to say, a vessel built as nearly as possible as possible, and not only intended to engage, but especially to run into and sink others. From this design, however, she has been altered, and is now to be built merely as a shot proof heavy armed frigate of perhaps 36, or perhaps 70 guns, as the Admiralty may eventually decide. It is to be named the Warrior, and will be at once fire and shot proof - the largest, strongest, and swiftest man-of-war afloat in the world. But, as we have already said, since the drawings for this noble ship were made, the Admiralty have, in their more recent plans, for genuine steam trains, accepted much which they had formerly condemned, and on the other hand, condemned a good deal of work on which they formerly insisted. Thus the two iron-cased vessels, or steam rams proper, which are now being built, one on the Tyne by Palmer, and the other by Westwood and Bailey at Millwall, are, though both shot proof, smaller in tonnage and armament, and nearly 100 feet shorter, than this planned frigate, the Warrior, which is being constructed at the Thames Shipping Company's yard. Though great progress has been made with the Warrior, the more striking parts of the hull, such as the beam and stern, have yet to be built up. Now one only sees dimly through the mists of time the ponderous hull of the really enormous solidity with which it is all put together. A perfect network of T shaped iron beams cross and recross one another in every direction. The wrought-iron "box-girders" which run throughout the vessel from stem to stern are the most powerful things of their kind that have ever yet been made; yet all these beams and girders, angle irons, and tie-rods, of which the whole hull is apparently built, are mere trifles to the things which have yet to be put into her. A whole mouthful of iron, which half fills one part of the yard, has to be consumed in her order "lining" while her armour plates lie about in ponderous slabs, weighing many tons, each from 16 to 18 feet long, 4 feet wide, and 4 1/2 inches thick. The nose, or cutwater of the vessel is one immense slab of wrought iron, about 50 feet long, 10 inches thick, and weighing upwards of 17 tons. The screw frame is one piece of the finest forged iron, without the slightest flaw of any kind, and weighing no less than 44 tons. Till the present work was commissioned such masses of forgings were never thought of, even in the construction of the Great Eastern itself.

Her dimensions, then, are: - Extreme length, 380 feet; ditto breadth, 58 feet; depth, 41 feet 6 inches; and her tonnage no less than 6,177 tons. The engines (seven, of course) are to be by Penn and Sons, of 1,250-horse power, and of these most places will, on a given occasion, lay a separate and detailed description before our readers. The total weight, with boilers, will be 950 tons.

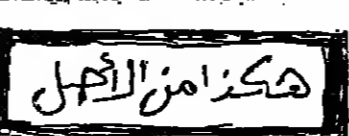
The whole of the framework of the armour-coated portion of the ship is now erected and the steel and iron in rapid course of construction. The number of guns to be carried on the main deck is to be 36, of which 30 are under the armour coating, and the rest fore and aft. It is not yet positively decided, though we believe there is little doubt that there will be either 30 or 36 broadside guns on the upper or spar deck as well, making her a 60 or 70-gun frigate. All these pieces of ordnance are to be Armstrong's longest range guns, and throwing shot of 100lb. weight.

In the course of two or three weeks more the framework of both stem and stern will be up and bolted together, and by that time the ribs of the midship section will be covered with their iron skin, and the double planking of teak commenced. As a matter of course the masts and spars will not be bolted into their places until after the Warrior is launched, when this part of her equipment will most likely be completed in the Victoria Docks. All the plates are dovetailed at the edges into one another, and secured through the teak and iron into the inner ribs of the ship with bolts, which are counter-sunk outside so as to have their heads level with the surface of the plate. The total weight of the plates for the vessel is 1,100 tons.

These monstrous slabs of armour are formed of scrap-iron with a certain amount of puddled bar-iron, which makes a mixture of almost unyielding toughness. Some of them taken to Portsmouth have been subjected to the most severe tests in order to ascertain their capacity for resisting shot and shell, and the remnants of these plates are now at the works at Blackwall. They were fired at by 68-pounders at a point-blank range of 300 yards. The massive shot even at this short distance have failed to penetrate the iron, though they have dented it to the depth of 1/4 or in some cases 2 inches.

It also reminds me of an American book about the teaching of RE in liberal schools, where there occurred in the index: "Kingdom of Heaven, see Constitution of the USA".

Yours faithfully,
BEN KINCENT,
60 The Friary,
Priory Park,
Blackheath, SE3,
January 2.





COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM January 12: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Church this morning. The Reverend Alan Carefull preached the Sermon. Her Majesty presented The Queen's Gold Medal for academic excellence at the King Edward VII School, King's Lynn, to Mr Matthew Schumann, who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by Mr R. G. Griffiths, the Deputy Headmaster.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R. T. Tyson and Mrs C. Tomalin The engagement is announced between Richard, eldest son of the late Commander A. Tyson, RN, and Mrs Tyson of South Devon, West Sussex, and Cariona, daughter of Sir George Trevelyan, Bt, and Lady Trevelyan, of Hawkesbury, Avon.

Clifford Longley Methodist appeal on target

The Methodist Church's "Mission Alongside the Poor" project can justly be called a success half way through its five-year span; and the church itself justly credited with having anticipated by three years the Church of England's new emphasis on the inner city. As the project passed its half-way mark at the end of December, so the funds raised for it reached half-way to the eventual £1 million target.

salvation is usually that we move towards the values and attitudes which are often described as middle class. What socially mobile Methodists seem to take with them as they move up and out, however, is a degree of responsibility for the welfare of the whole community. The movement which produced the Mission Alongside the Poor involved a skilful plucking at the strings of this social conscience, of which the raising of £502,000 already is further evidence.

Schools

Felixstowe College Spring Term begins today with Diana Brocklebank continuing as head girl and Alison Miller as second head. Half term will be from February 14 to 18. The scholarship examination for entry to the sixth form will be on February 22 and external candidates may still apply. The school choir will sing at the Cathedral Church, Bury St Edmunds on March 1 and a joint "Songs of Praise" with the Royal Hospital School will be on March 16. The term will end with a confirmation service on March 22 which will be taken by the Right Rev Eric Devenport, Bishop of Dunwich.

Obituary

PROF A. d'ENTREVES

Oxford don, Italian partisan

Professor Alexander d'Entrevès, who died on December 15 in Turin aged 83, was Scruton Professor of Italian Studies in the University of Oxford from 1946 to 1957, and Professor of Political Theory in the University of Turin from 1958 to 1972. He was a distinguished scholar whose works on medieval and Renaissance political thought made an important contribution to the subject and whose lectures in Oxford, attended by undergraduates reading a variety of schools interpreted Continental thought with fluency of speech and richness of vocabulary.

MR BARRY AIKMAN

Mr Barry T. Aikman, who died in London on January 8, was a pioneer and major exponent of flying boat transport after the Second World War, and a leading figure in the British travel industry. According to Sir Peter Masefield, former Chairman of British European Airways, he was "the last great exponent of the flying boat."

MR SID CHAPLIN

Mr Sid Chaplin, a Durham miner who turned from life in the pits to writing, died on January 11. He was 69. Short stories and novels flowed freely from his typewriter, showing a keen observation of his own background, below and above ground. His best acclaimed novel *The Day of the Sardine* came in 1961 after a decade of writing.

SOOTHEY'S FOUNDED 1744 THIS WEEK'S SALES AT SOTHEY'S London, 34-35 New Bond Street, W1A 2AA Tel: (01) 493 8080

Science report How aquatic life can help pollution battle By Gareth Huw Davies A new system for classifying Britain's rivers into 30 distinct types which are identifiable on the basis of the species of creatures they contain, has been devised by the Freshwater Biological Association.

Birthdays today Mr Craig Aitchison, 60; Air Marshal Sir John Baker-Carr, 80; Sir Johannes Ballo-Prinzler, 75; Mr Richard Attenborough, 69; Sir Michael Bond, 60; Dr Sydney Brenner, 59; Major-General B. P. Hughes, 83; Sir Alan Lubbock, 89; Mr Bernard Srimley, 55; Mr K. C. Turpin, 71.

Appointments in the Forces CAPTAIN R. H. BRYANT, Royal Navy, is to be promoted to the rank of Commander on 15th January 1986. COMMANDER C. R. G. BROWN, Royal Navy, is to be promoted to the rank of Captain on 15th January 1986.

THE ARTS

The English Stage Company celebrates its thirtieth birthday this year. Over the period no one has remained closer to the Royal Court than the theatre director William Gaskill (right). In this article he recalls the triumphs, the controversies and the eccentrics of the E.S.C.

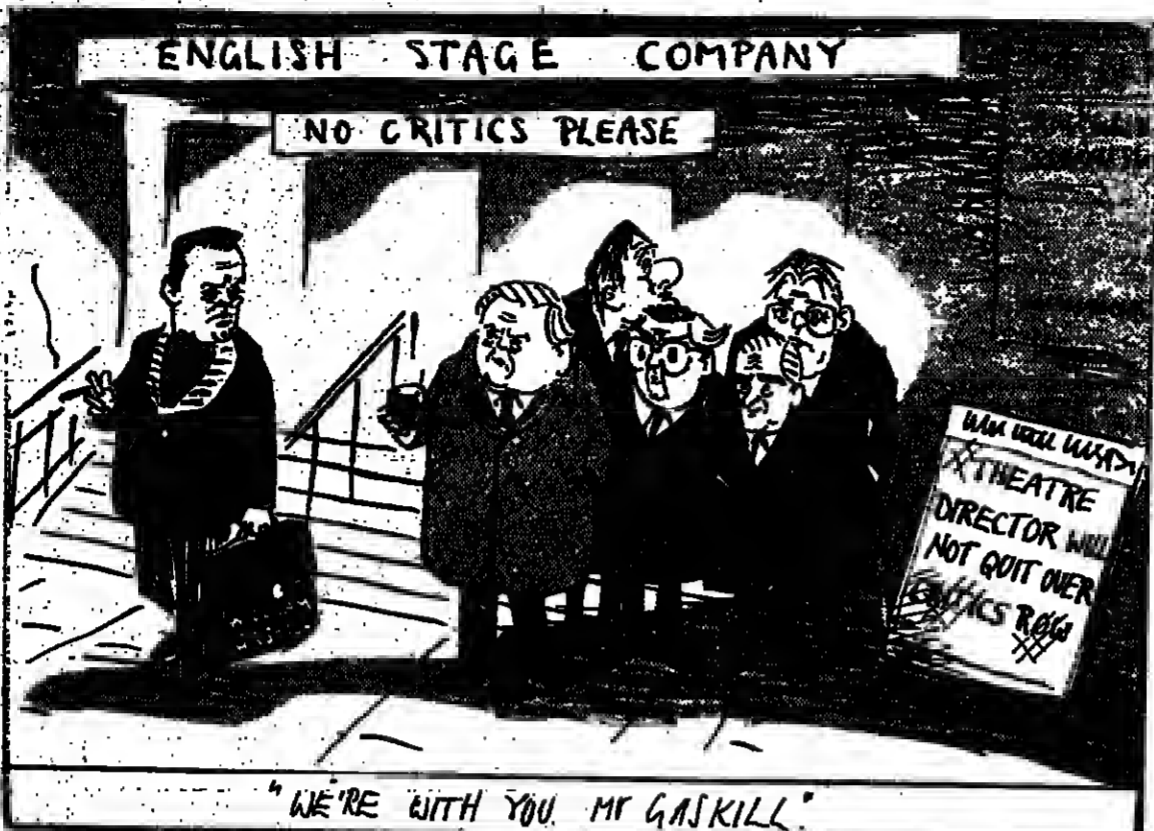
Glorious riches spring from talents in turmoil

I love the Royal Court Theatre in a way I shall never love any other; in the way that John Gielgud must love the Old Vic - and no young actor could ever love the Barbican or the National Theatre. Partly because of its significance in the most formative period of my career, partly because of the perfect size of its stage and auditorium, which can encompass the intimacy of Beckett and the epic scale of Bond's Lear, perhaps a little for the memories of his glorious past under Granville-Barker, but most for the richness of the work that grew out of the combination and the clash of the talents there.

I was not a part of the original team that started the English Stage Company in 1956, but I saw all the opening production and I knew about all the stages of planning and the crises of the first year through my friendship with Tony Richardson. Tony is a perverse, brilliant and stimulating man who was as important a figure in the early days as George Devine. He stood for enterprise, new ideas and exploitation of success, and was ambitious for a future in films (he now lives in Los Angeles); George stood for tradition, craftsmanship and the nurturing of talent.

Tony would provoke him at management meetings by saying things like "We don't want any of that St Denis rubbish in this theatre" (Michel St Denis was George's old mentor). George would scowl and mutter and Peggy Ashcroft, also on the committee, would burst out in impetuous defence. The assistant directors (Lindsay Anderson, John Dexter and myself) were somewhere between the two and formed a caucus protecting the new writers, Arnold Wesker, Ann Jellicoe, N. F. Simpson and John Arden. Perhaps this was part of George's and Tony's plan. The emotional tensions held the theatre together when they should have pulled it apart.

I had arrived at the Court as Tony's protégé at the end of 1957 and after the success of a Sunday night "production-without-decor" was invited to join the staff. I was immediately asked to direct the early Osborne-Crichton play *Epitaph for George Dillon*, mainly, I think, because no one else wanted to do it. It was a three-act play with two intervals and very effective curtain-lines - and there was a curtain in those days which was always used, made of very tart plum velvet. As in any rep company the technical rehearsal would start with the National Anthem, the fading of the house lights and music from some wheezy panopticon. Add the curtains, would rise. We sometimes struggled with the lighting ourselves but more often than not George would be in charge (there were no prima donna lighting designers in those days). The change-over, set-up and lighting were on Saturday night; technical rehearsal on a Sunday and public dress rehearsals on the Monday, opening on the Tuesday. The play had a brief run in the



Gaskill aligned, apparently, with the Government of the day after the first night of *Macbeth*: Nicholas Garland's view (Daily Telegraph cartoon)

West End and was on Broadway by the end of the year, produced by David Merrick and Josh Logan. The Royal Court directorate seemed to spend half its time flying back and forth across the Atlantic just as Max Stafford-Clark does now. Without his earnings from Broadway the ESC would not have survived those early years. The cast of *George Dillon* and I waited for the New York notices at a huge party in John Logan's apartment. Suddenly the room emptied - the notices had arrived and a group of English actors were left isolated and slightly hysterical. I rang up George in the middle of the night. He said "Don't worry, boy, there's a lot to do back here" - and I knew there was. Back to that shabby old theatre in Sloane Square where the real work was being done.

United against a common enemy

That year (1958) the critics savaged the work of the new writers: Ann Jellicoe, John Arden and Harold Pinter; Keith Johnstone, who had suffered himself, wrote a blistering play called *The Nigger Hunt* equating the critics with the race mobs of Notting Hill. Ken Tynan was very upset. We were united against a common enemy.

The other enemy was the Lord Chamberlain, and I was soon involved in the repeat scenarios of the visit to the back office in St James's Palace to see Colonel

Johnnie Johnstone or some other official. George says he once had to discuss a new play with the Chamberlain in full Court regalia: "We all know that this line means he's going to roger the girl." We even had a reading of *Engorgano* for his suggested in the casting office. Lordship with George mauling through "the bastard, he doesn't exist", which was the cause of the scene being withheld.

We sat and watched George, very nervous, as he was directing the play as well as playing Hamlet, showing the work to Sam Beckett and interrupting his performance with questions about the lighting, the stage management, until Sam very gently took over the reins and directed the play himself. Beckett's love for George was one of the many strands of loyalties (and disloyalties) which made up the Court. There were so many broken marriages that at one time it was known as the Royal Divorce Court and these realignments were all connected with the work. Reporters hid in a cupboard in the rehearsal room when Orson Welles was directing Olivier and Joan Plowright and it was their marriage which symbolized the union of the old and the new.

Space at the Court has always been limited, but in those days there was no Theatre Upstairs - it was a supper club run by Clement Freud with a bar where the general office now is. George lived in a tiny office off the circle bar; the switchboard and all the secretaries were bundled into one room. When I took over in 1965 we

finally wrested the club from Freud and after various moves I was housed at the end of the corridor next to the literary manager and the casting director. Nothing that happened at the Court was ever secret; if an actor whom I did not like was suggested in the casting office I would follow down the corridor "Not in my theatre" - arrogant maybe, but it shows how immediate the contact was between departments, something denied to a larger organization.

When I took over the direction of the Court in 1965 George had exhausted himself and collapsed during *A Patriot for Me*, the most spectacular of all Court productions. There were so many actors in it they had to dress not only under the stage but in the sub-basement. Excited by two years with a permanent company at the Old Vic, I took the Court back to its beginnings - new plays, in repertoire with a resident company. Ann Jellicoe's *Shelley* opened the season and bombed, so did the second play, N. F. Simpson's *The Cresta Run*; it was third with Bond's *Saved*, which should have lived up to its name, but it unleashed the moral fury of the critics, including Irving Wardle (who later recanted). I knew I was right and they were wrong. So did everyone else who worked in the theatre. Olivier swung into the attack with a great article in *The Observer* and Ken Tynan and Mary McCarthy led a teach-in on the play. We were back at the centre of things. The Lord Chamberlain was against us, the

critics were against us, but our fellow-workers were with us.

The next three years saw a succession of battles with the Lord Chamberlain, who took us to court over *Saved* (we were found guilty but conditionally discharged); with the Press over my production of *Macbeth* with Alec Guinness and Simone Signoret; and over the casting of Marianne Faithfull in *The Three Sisters*. When swinging London arrived the theatre was strategically placed to be part of it and we gave David Hockney his first chance as theatre designer with *Ubu Roi*.

There were internal battles too. Neville Blond, the chairman of the council, appalled by the storms raging about the theatre he had fought so long to keep financially solvent, tried to get rid of me, but the calm objectivity of George Harewood prevailed and I stayed. It was my first experience of establishing policies when George rewrote the minutes of the meeting to coocele the rift from the Arts Council or posterity.

They were turbulent years, perhaps most personified by the late Victor Henry, an actor we used many times. He was scheduled to play the young Arnold Wesker to Ian McKellen's old one in *Their Very Own and Golden City*. At a late stage in rehearsals we decided to let McKellen play both. During the dress rehearsal, broken glass showered on the stage - it was a very drunk Victor with Dennis Waterman in the lighting grid. Dennis was replaced by Ken Cranham in his first job.

Victor disappeared but came back to play many performances, not least in Peter Gill's great production of the D. H. Lawrence plays. Peter himself collapsed at the dress rehearsal and was rushed into hospital with perforated ulcers but summoned Judy Parfitt to his bedside where she was directed in whispers so the nurse would not hear. I suppose this period ended on the last night of *Early Morning* (also an embattled play), when we had a drag ball. My general manager, production manager, and associate director appeared as the Supreme; Ken Cranham won the beauty contest as a rocker in plastic mini-skirt and with an Alice band in his hair.

Freedom gained, but work split

The Bond season of 1969 was possible because of the Theatres Act, which removed pre-censorship and marked the end of an era in more ways than one: it coincided with the beginnings of the Fringe, whereby experimental work was shuffled off into venues (not theatres) where it would not upset anyone or lose money; I acquiesced in this move by turning the old club into the Theatre Upstairs. We had gained our freedom but the work was henceforth to be split. I was tired after four years of struggle and asked Lindsay Anderson and Anthony Page to share the



Television Surviving panic

Everyman (BBC1) was concerned with those Americans who call themselves "Survivalists", because they are training themselves to exist in some future world where "law and order" have broken down. Of course this preparation for chaos, as they obsessively live through the implications of their own fears, may be dismissed as paranoia or as some strained outcrop of religious millennialism. But last night's documentary suggested that the phenomenon was rather more interesting than that: interesting in the sense that these apparently "ordinary" people exhibit fears which most people to some extent share.

It could be said that the Survivalists understand more forcibly than usual the common perception that "civilization" is a very fragile thing, capable of being blown away in a moment. These Americans have looked into the horror, as it were, and it was instructive that one of their leaders is a Vietnam veteran. None of this serves to justify their manic preoccupation with weapons of every kind, and in any case the pursuit of an obsession is never very charming to watch.

Certainly none of the people involved in last night's film would be one's immediate choice of friend, but this was a consistently interesting programme and for once the technique of "dramatized documentary" - with the awful warning that the participants "play themselves in scenes that depict their own lives" - did not become offensive.

Architecture at the Crossroads (BBC2) seemed to come down rather heavily against architectural "modernism": "Where did our ideas about architecture go wrong?" was the fashionable lament, with the concomitant demand for more "humaneness" in the use of space. But this viewer was not convinced: ideas do not "go wrong", they merely change; and I suspect that the animus against the "modern" movement" is only a new species of cultural stivism that will pass as surely as modernism itself.

Peter Ackroyd

There were two reasons why the BBC2 Arena programme's resituation of Shostakovich's original music score for the Russian silent film *New Babylon* was important. The first was that this 1929 classic - telling the bloody story of the 1871 Paris commune in a virtuosity, if highly propagandist, montage of fact and symbol - could be viewed in the complete form that its makers, Kozintsev and Trauberg, originally intended.

The 25-year-old Orchestra's score, written in three weeks and orchestrated in six days, went far beyond the capabilities of Russian cinema orchestras, and was mocked by audiences. It was only rediscovered after the composer's death, and edited and directed for this showing by the Israeli conductor Omri Hadari. Unfortunately the playing by the "London Lyric Orchestra" demonstrated the music's difficulty only too well.

The second reason, more significant to musicians, was the opportunity the film provided to cross-check some of the many speculations about the political "meaning" of Shostakovich's orchestral music. Observing, for instance, the deadly sarcasm with which the composer linked grotesque parodies of Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène* with the setting of the bourgeoisie dancing while the workers starved, or noting how he brilliantly counterpointed the Can-Can and the "Marseillaise" as the French government turned its own army against the Parisians, does possibly help to clarify the significance of similar material in Shostakovich's symphonies.

Even so, a purely musical level Shostakovich's first film score is a compelling demonstration of his precocious talents. The basic vocabulary of all his later output - the relentless bass repetitions, the drum and xylophone, the bleak lyricism of high, unsupported violins - is present here.

Introducing the film, Lindsay Anderson should perhaps have mentioned one extraordinary historical irony. Fourteen years after writing the *New Babylon* music, about a city besieged by Prussians, Shostakovich found out for himself what it was like to be trapped by German guns. The impact of the work he wrote then, the "Leningrad" Symphony, can only be strengthened if listeners recognize the allusions to the film-score.

Richard Morrison

As You Like It

Royal Exchange, Manchester

The main challenge facing the director, Nicholas Hytner, and his designer Di Seymour in *As You Like It* lies in cultivating the Forest of Arden in the middle of the Royal Exchange's high-tech heptagon. This is

achieved, initially, through dappled lighting and an extraordinary tangle of russet wool dangling from the central lighting grid, from which polystyrene snowflakes usher in winter.

After the interval, the thaw is represented by a sheet of white silk being whipped away to disclose green tizunai, each large enough to conceal a brace of gooseberry-players (which certainly makes a change from plywood tree-trunks inside a proscenium arch) and by the

descent of trailing catkins. The remainder of the evening is overlit.

Another concomitant of the ruting season (for this is, after all, a well-written fertility play) is that the characters emerge dressed from tip to toe in soap-powder-commercial white - a contrast to the hippy-harvest motley of their winter clothing and, more significantly, to the totalitarian grey of Duke Frederick's court where everyone dresses like a Comintern chauffeur, not excepting David

Howey's crisply unpleasant Duke.

Mr Howey's peremptory banishment of Rosalind and Celia comes when the two chums are engaged in a frolicsome pillow fight, clad in fetching white nighties. Let us not be about the undergrowth: this is why we are here. As one of the mildest members of the company, Janet McTeer makes a natural Rosalind, and her startled expressions, her witty playfulness, her air of being at once less than and considerably more than the role, enable her to carry it off supremely well.

Already a draw in her own right, Miss McTeer will no doubt become a considerable live-up to his name, but it unleashes the moral fury of the critics, including Irving Wardle (who later recanted). I knew I was right and they were wrong. So did everyone else who worked in the theatre. Olivier swung into the attack with a great article in *The Observer* and Ken Tynan and Mary McCarthy led a teach-in on the play. We were back at the centre of things. The Lord Chamberlain was against us, the

gawky, then that is what she is, and no more so than in her twitting of Duncan Bell's sterling Orlando.

Suzanne Burden's Celia makes an adequate foil to Miss McTeer's coltishness, although the two of them have yet to feel their way fully through the key scenes: the technique is all there, but for the moment technique is all they give us. It might be a good idea to wait for spring, when the company will take the whole show stage-seating and all - on a tour of provincial sports centres.

In the crucial minor roles, Rael Raw's Jacques is a cipher (his "seven ages" speech takes place in a vacuum) and Richard McCabe's Touchstone exemplifies the most tedious aspects of Shakespearian comedy.

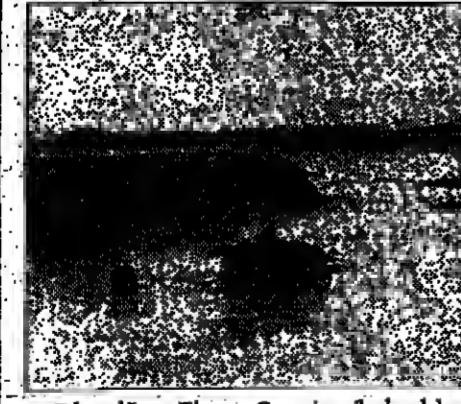
Martin Cropper



Fine foils in the making: Suzanne Burden's Celia (left), Janet McTeer's Rosalind

CHRISTIE'S

Lear, the painter poet



Edward Lear: Khanza, Crete, inscribed and dated '17 April 1864 - 9 A.M. and sunset - 6 P.M.', watercolour, 11 1/4 x 19 1/4 in.

Sold at Christie's for £15,120

Not an owl or a pussycat in sight, but that didn't prevent this fine Edward Lear fetching plenty of £5 notes.

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For further information please contact Noel Annesley, Anthony Browne or Charles Nugent.

8 King Street, St. James's, London SW1Y 6QT Tel: (01) 839 9060 Telex: 916429

PLG Young Artists Purcell Room

Normally in these Park Lane Group recitals one looks for promise, not for the fully mature accomplishment shown on Friday by the pianist Victor Sangiorgio. His programme suggested a quite particular taste, for music more than a little overblown: Sorabji's *Pan-tastic espagnole* and Cyril Scott's *Second Sonata* were the main works. This might have been an excuse for splashy grandiloquence, but of that there was none.

Mr Sangiorgio gave a close definition and oozed excitement to every detail, so that Scott's arabesques were not superfluous gestures but whole musical events, keenly alive. Both works also proved Mr Sangiorgio to be a musician of intellectual stamina. The purpose of the Scott Sonata was never lost in decoration or bombast, and one arrived at the final fugue as if all before had been closely argued prelude. Then in that fugue the virtuosity was breathtaking. Mr Sangiorgio also brought musical life to John McCabe's *Paraphrase on Mary Queen of Scots*.

For the musicians who had to appear on the same programme, Katey Thomas, in her playing of flute solos by Maxwell Davies, Berio and Duncan Fraser, appeared a demure artist, unwilling to

explore very far. She has a nice sense of line, but the Dutilleux *Sonatina*, joyously accompanied by Graham Jackson, brought breathiness at high volume.

The saxophonist Martin Robertson made more of an impression. In Berio's *Sequenza IXb* he had not adjusted to the scale of the hall, and his tone was sometimes too coarse for this tricky, easesful journey around memory loops. His other solo work, Denisov's *Sonata*, found him more sensitive, and ably partnered by Anthony Gray, but the piece itself is a dismal hotch-potch of neoclassicism, unappealing chords (in the largely solo slow movement) and jazziness. And there was jazz, too, behind Michael Henry's thoroughly enigmatic *Say Ave for Me* for soprano saxophone. I much preferred the quirky, charming *Sarabande* from Mark-Anthony Turnage, also for soprano saxophone and piano, with important parts for desk bells.

Paul Griffiths

Alan Bush Queen Elizabeth Hall A pleasingly large audience turned up at the Queen Elizabeth Hall for Alan Bush's 85th birthday concert, and the warmth of the ovation which they gave the composer indi-

Concerts

impressive statement - musically wonderfully rich and inventive, and profoundly affirmative in attitude. *The Winter Journey* for soloists, chorus and instruments movingly projected the Christmas story into the setting of a modern city; and Bush himself played us his *Relinquishment* and *Six Short Pieces* for solo piano (very capably too).

The feeling at the heart of this memorable evening is best summed up by the words of Milton in *Voices of the Prophets*: "So at length the spirit of man will reach out till it fills the whole world with its divine greatness. Humanity's track-record since the Stone Age, and in this century in particular, may have caused us to lose sight of such an ideal; Bush's music makes us believe that, somehow, it is still attainable.

Malcolm Hayes

Gardens flower in Country Life

Country and everything in them will flower in the *Country Life* Souvenir Calendar. Reproduction is always superb. And it's the ideal medium for watching the top cross-section of country houses. We think you'll love to like it. Contact Nigel Locken. 01-261 5401.

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THE TIMES Portfolio

From your Portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page...

Table with columns: No., Company, Capitalization £, Price last Friday, Change Friday week, Gross Dividend p.a., Dividend Yield % P/E. Includes sections for INDUSTRIALS A-D, BUILDING AND ROADS, FINANCIAL SERVICES, FOODS, and OVERSEAS TRADERS.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: MON, TUE, WED, THU, FRI, SAT, SUNDAY. Includes a note: 'Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £20,000 in Saturday's newspaper.'

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: Name, Share, Price, Change Friday week, Dividend p.a., Dividend Yield % P/E.

SHORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: Name, Share, Price, Change Friday week, Dividend p.a., Dividend Yield % P/E.

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Name, Share, Price, Change Friday week, Dividend p.a., Dividend Yield % P/E.

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: Name, Share, Price, Change Friday week, Dividend p.a., Dividend Yield % P/E.

UNDATED table with columns: Name, Share, Price, Change Friday week, Dividend p.a., Dividend Yield % P/E.

INDEX-LINKED table with columns: Name, Share, Price, Change Friday week, Dividend p.a., Dividend Yield % P/E.

BREWERIES table with columns: Name, Share, Price, Change Friday week, Dividend p.a., Dividend Yield % P/E.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: Name, Share, Price, Change Friday week, Dividend p.a., Dividend Yield % P/E.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Begin Today, Dealings End, Jan 24, Contango Day, Jan 27, Settlement Day, Feb 3. \$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Main stock exchange price table with columns: Capitalization £, Company, Price last Friday, Change Friday week, Gross Dividend p.a., Dividend Yield % P/E. Includes sections for FINANCE AND LAND, FOODS, HOTELS AND CATERERS, INDUSTRIALS A-D, and ELECTRICALS.

THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £2,000. Claims required for +42 points. Claims should ring 0254-5377.

Vertical sidebar table with various categories: OIL, OVERSEAS TRADERS, INSURANCE, PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING, LEISURE, MINING, PROPERTY, SHIPPING, SHOES AND LEATHER, TEXTILES, MOTORCARS AND AIRCRAFT, NEWSPAPERS AND PUBLISHERS, TOBACCO.

Vertical text on the far right edge of the page, including 'FINAN Execu', 'Probl real', and 'Tax action ver baby and socie'.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Problem: how to cut real wages by 13%

When base rates rise and unemployment starts to go up again, it can mean only one thing - the Chancellor is off for a quiet weekend in the country to plan his Budget.

Of the two events which threatened to shatter the Chevening calm, the surprise increase in unemployment last month was the more serious.

Adult unemployment rose by 14,700 in December, after edging down by a total of 16,300 over the previous three months.

Department of Employment officials were keen to point out that the unemployment count was closer to Christmas than usual, and may have been affected by the seasonal lull in recruitment.

Unfortunately, a flat unemployment trend is not good enough, when the adult total stands at 3.18 million and the unadjusted total is set to rise to 3.4 million this month.

Apart from the special employment and training measures for which a further expansion is likely, the Government's approach to reducing unemployment has tended to focus upon real wages.

Several economists would argue with the general proposition that lower real wages will mean higher employment, and hence a reduction in unemployment.

A conference on the role of unions in recession, sponsored by the Economic and Social Research Council, was held at Queen Mary College, London, last Thursday.

According to Andrew Oswald, of the Centre for Labour Economics at the London School of Economics, in a review of the many econometric estimates that have been made, unemployment is inversely related to real wages with an elasticity of around -0.1.

What this means is that a doubling of unemployment, other things being equal - as they clearly have not been in Britain over the past few years - will be associated with a drop in real wages of about 10 per cent.

Since 1980, adult unemployment in Britain has increased from an average for that year of 1.57 million, to December's level of 3.8 million. It has, in fact, doubled.

Real wages have not, however, fallen by 10 per cent. Average earnings, across the whole economy, have risen by 56.2 per cent since 1980.

Thus, rising unemployment has gone hand-in-hand with strongly rising, rather than falling real wages. Real wages in Britain are 23 per cent higher than they should be according to an economic model based on a longer run of data.

Matching this with the Treasury's own estimates, looked at from the other side of the equation, and it does appear that real wages are rather out of line.

The Treasury's review paper, 'The Relationship Between Employment and Wages', published last year, came up with the rule of thumb that every 1 per cent reduction in real wages results in a rise in employment of 110,000 to 220,000.

This suggests that eliminating the 13 per cent growth in real wages that has occurred would, after allowing for labour force growth, cut unemployment by up to 2 million.

The problem is, how to cut real wages? A standard view, certainly in the Conservative Party, is that excessive growth in real wages is closely related to the exercise of monopoly power by the unions.

Management is ready to accede to large pay rises in return for a quiet life, making any necessary cost adjustments by cutting down on number employed.

Andrew Oswald sent out questionnaires to the head offices of the largest 18 unions in Britain, asking whether employment is a normal feature of pay negotiations.

The majority said that they do not normally negotiate over job numbers in this way, employment being decided unilaterally by employers.

Professor Patrick Minford of Liverpool University went out on a limb four years ago, as he often does, with an estimate suggesting that the wages of union members, over the period 1964-79, were 74 per cent higher than those of non-union workers.

Professor Minford's estimate is a rather broad brush one, referring to: 'The totality of the union sector including its satellite and the non-unionized parts; think of miners or fireman relative to cleaning ladies or Liverpool taxi drivers.'

David Blanchflower, of Warwick University's Institute for Employment Research, suggests that the union mark-up is much more modest, when union and non-union jobs are compared like with like.

His estimates, presented at the conference, point to a mark-up which is, on average, in single figures - ranging from 1 per cent for skilled manual workers, 3 per cent for clerical workers, and 4 per cent for middle managers, to 10 per cent for semi-skilled manual workers.

In some jobs, curiously, union membership actually confers a pay disadvantage. The largely unionized workers in the Co-operative retail network have been found to have lower average pay than non-unionized employees with other similar chains.

It is clearly rather important to know how unions affect pay, if one of the aims of reducing union power is securing a reduction in overall real wage levels.

Looking on a rather shorter time horizon, is there any Budget action that the Chancellor can take to reduce real wages? Last March he announced a restructuring of National Insurance contributions.

On the employees' side, this was to alleviate the employment trap. On employers' National Insurance contributions, the Budget cut the cost of employing staff at the lower end of the pay scale but, in removing the upper earnings limit, increased employment costs sharply for the better paid.

This measure of real wages, in terms of wage costs to the employer, is a different one to the one we have been discussing - real wages to the employee.

But reductions in real wage costs to companies should have desirable employment effects. The measures unveiled in the last Budget, however, do not appear to have had such effects.

According to the Confederation of British Industry, overall employment costs went up, higher contributions at the top end outweighing reduced contributions for the lower paid.

In any case, the feeling in Downing Street and the Treasury appears to be one of impatience with companies for dissipating the possible competitive gains from the abolition of the National Insurance surcharge, in over-generous pay awards.

Highly visible tax reductions, and as described here before, this means the basic rate of income tax, do appear to act as an informal incomes policy, producing smaller overall rises in money wages.

On the other hand, with real incomes set to rise by 3 per cent this year as inflation falls, even without any reductions in tax, there is a danger that pay negotiators will start to regard this sort of real wage increase as the norm.

David Smith Economics Correspondent

Thatcher launches diplomatic offensive to end tin crisis

By Michael Frost, Financial Correspondent

The British Government has launched a last minute diplomatic offensive to persuade other members of the International Tin Council to accept their obligations and end the crisis which is moving to a climax with meetings today and tomorrow.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, wrote to the heads of government of the 21 other country members of the ITC at the weekend urging them to accept responsibility for the council's gross debts of \$900 million.

The letter is timed for today's meeting of the London Metal Exchange and tomorrow's meeting of the ITC.

While it is not specific about how the ITC should settle its debts, it is, in practice, asking the government to accept the \$320 million rescue plan proposed by Mr Peter Graham, senior deputy chairman of Standard Chartered Bank, and Mr Ralph Kesteven, managing director of the broker, Gerald Metals.

This involves setting up a new company that would acquire the ITC's stocks and contracts. It is the only serious proposal on the table and it is quietly supported by the British Government.

Time to accept the plan and set up the company are short because the LME has said that suspension of its tin contract cannot continue beyond the end of this month.

The tin crisis broke on October 24 when the ITC said it could no longer afford to finance supporting the tin price through its buffer stock.

The suspension of trading effectively froze the buffer stock's position. It has stocks of about 50,000 tonnes of tin and forward purchase commitments of 62,000 tonnes.

Thirteen LME brokers are exposed in varying degrees to the council. A group of 14 banks and metal traders are also owed \$350 million by the ITC.

Brokers and banks emphasized at the end of last week that the present financing offer is the last chance of securing a "soft landing" for the tin market.

The planned company at present called Newco, will be capitalized at \$320 million. Banks will put up \$50 million equity, brokers \$20 million, and the consumer and producers groups on the ITC \$150 million each.

The British Government has put forward suggestions that it make a \$50 million loan to Newco.

Some governments, notably Japan, Germany and the tin producers, said that they could need six months to make their contributions to Newco, so Standard Chartered has offered the company a bridging loan of up to \$150 million, on condition that the British Government verifies ministerial commitments by the early ITC members to pay and that payment is made by the end of June.

Even so, the banks estimate that at a tin price of \$6,000 a tonne, compared with \$3,140 when trading was suspended, they will lose 10 per cent of their capital, converted through Newco into equity.

The Malaysia Mining Corporation, one of the world's largest tin conglomerates, said at the weekend that it did not foresee any improvement in the world tin industry in the next two to three years and announced that it would dismiss 49 senior staff at the end of this month to reduce costs.

Oil ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries may convert the first session of a committee, looking at ways of defending Opec's dwindling share of the world oil market, into a full ministerial meeting when it reports on February 7.

The ministerial meeting may be called because of the continued weakness in the world oil market.

The market's weakness has forced spot prices for March deliveries to under \$24 a barrel for high-quality North Sea crude oil, has left several large oil tankers at sea with cargoes and has forced Venezuela to cut its official prices.

Venezuela's price cut for its heavy grades - it was forced to follow cuts made by a non-Opec member, Mexico - is embarrassing for the country's oil minister Senor Arturo Grisanit, who has been elected Opec president and chairs the committee charged with finding ways of maintaining Opec's market share at about 18 million barrels a day.

However, Opec will be able to take some comfort from reports from the Soviet Union indicating that technical problems in Siberian oil fields will prevent the country from stepping up its exports this year.

The Soviet oil industry has failed to meet its 1985 output targets, despite the intervention of the country's leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov.

The country remains the world's largest producer with output totalling more than 600 million tonnes a year, but only in the summer has it output to spare in any quantity for export.

British investors will be offered shares at about 19 times 1985 earnings. But Mr Templeton and his colleagues, Mr John Galbraith and Mr Tom Hansberger, who handle marketing and finance, will still control more than 30 per cent of the company.

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Britain lags in space expenditure

By Bill Johnstone Technology Correspondent

Britain is spending less per head on space than any of its major industrial competitors, according to a survey by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The survey highlights the dramatic international growth in communication satellites - used to carry television and telephone signals - and shows Britain in 11th place behind Switzerland in the per capita space spending league.

The growth points to billions of dollars likely to be spent in almost every area of these new communication networks.

Related 1983-90 investments will amount to about 4 billion (£2.7 billion) for launches, \$4.5 billion for satellites and \$8 billion for earth stations," the survey concludes.

According to the OECD figures, which compare investment in 1983, Britain's space budget was \$98 million lagging behind \$15 billion of the US, \$404 million of France, \$299 million of West Germany, \$477 million of Japan and \$109 million of Canada.

An average of 23 geostationary satellites are scheduled to be launched each year until the end of the decade. This total comprises 8 American domestic satellites and 11 others for domestic and regional use around the world.

The Space Industry, OECD, 2, Rue André-Pascal, 75 775, Paris Cedex 16.

Shareholders in Burnett & Hallamshire, the troubled mining company, will be asked to vote today on a capital reconstruction to save the group.

Existing shareholders would hold only 24 per cent of the enlarged company as a result of the planned changes, assuming they did not take up any new shares.

Up to 350 are expected at the annual meeting in Sheffield, which will be followed immediately by an extraordinary meeting.

Shareholders will also be asked to appoint Price Waterhouse as auditor in place of Thornton Baker.

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Falling Opec sales may lead to summit

By David Young Energy Correspondent

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SE float for Bahamas fund group

By Graham Searjeant

Mr John Templeton, the British-born doyen of American international investment is to float his Bahamas-based investment management group on the London Stock Exchange.

The full listing will value the privately-owned Templeton, Galbraith & Hansberger at about \$300 million and is being handled by the brokers, Cazenove.

Most of the group's business is in the United States, where Mr Templeton pioneered the idea of mutual funds (unit trusts) that took a flexible global view on investment.

Five funds have more than 400,000 shareholders and invest assets of more than \$3 billion. Nearly \$2 billion is managed for pension funds and private clients.

Profits after tax in the past five years have risen from \$1.9 million to a forecast of more than \$16 million in 1985. About two-thirds of the profits come from management fees and a third from sales of the funds.

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Defence by Distillers

A valuation of £20 million have been put on the London properties owned by Distillers by the consultant surveyors and valuers John D Wood, acting for the Company as part of its defence against the £600 million takeover bid by Argyl.

The Distillers, chairman, Mr John Connell has told shareholders: "One of the few plans of any kind which Argyl has announced is its intention to sell most of Distillers' prestigious London properties - or some of them."

He adds that the income from the disposal of these properties would be "relatively insignificant" in the context of the £70 million expenses of the Argyl offer or the £600 million which Argyl has arranged to borrow to finance the bid.

The Government is expected to confirm later this week the closure of the British steel rolling mill at Gartcosh, Lanarkshire, with the loss of 700 jobs.

Meanwhile today a group of workers from the mill are due to arrive at the House of Commons after a 400-mile march. The workers had hoped, during their march, to persuade the Government to keep the plant open for at least another three years.

The founder, chairman and chief executive of Control Data, Mr William Norris, aged 74, has handed over control of the Minneapolis computer group as losses of \$269.9 million (£186 million) have been reported for the first nine months of 1985 and further losses have been predicted for this year.

He will be succeeded as head of the company by Mr Robert Price, a president of the company.

Lord Thomson of Fleet has resigned as chairman of the British subsidiary of International Thomson Organisation. Lord Thomson remains chairman and chief executive of the American parent company.

He is replaced by Mr James Evans, who remains as managing director and chief executive of the British company.

China's industrial output for 1985 totalled \$23.8 billion yuan, (£178.3bn), up 17.7 per cent over 1984, Mr Zhao Weichen, vice-minister of the state economic commission said in Peking.

Ghana has devalued its currency, the Cedi, by 33 per cent against the dollar and increased the minimum daily wage, the Ghana News Agency reported in Accra.

Tax action over baby bond society

By Laurence Lever

The Inland Revenue is expected this week to prohibit the Tunbridge Wells Equitable Friendly Society from marketing any future tax exempt policies for children after an investigation into its Baby Bond policy.

The Baby Bond was withdrawn last week because of pressure from the Revenue.

Existing holders of the bond will not lose the tax exempt benefits of the policy. About 10,000 have been sold since its launch in September.

It is believed, however, that the Revenue will issue a direction against the Tunbridge Wells on Friday under powers contained in the Finance Act 1985.

The effect will be that the Revenue will regard the Tunbridge Wells, one of the old friendly societies registered before 1966, as a new friendly society, and therefore as only capable of writing policies that are a new friendly society can write.

Business expansion rule changes likely in Budget

A thorough review of the Business Expansion Scheme legislation is being carried out by the Government after a report commissioned from Peat Marwick Mitchell, the accountants.

Changes in the structure of the BES, in addition to the types of business eligible, are likely in the Budget. Activities such as wine trading and trading in fine art and antiques are likely to be excluded.

Property development companies were excluded in last year's Budget and farming ventures the previous year.

Likely areas of current ministerial attention include provisions about the length of time investors have to keep shareholding in BES companies - at present five years.

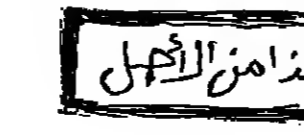
Highly visible tax reductions, and as described here before, this means the basic rate of income tax, do appear to act as an informal incomes policy, producing smaller overall rises in money wages.

On the other hand, with real incomes set to rise by 3 per cent this year as inflation falls, even without any reductions in tax, there is a danger that pay negotiators will start to regard this sort of real wage increase as the norm.

MARKET SUMMARY

Table with columns for STOCK MARKETS and BOARD MEETINGS. Includes data for FT 100, Dow Jones, Nikkei Dow, etc.

Advertisement for THE PROFESSIONAL PLAN, featuring a large '16.9% APR' and details about loans for higher income earners. Includes contact information for TSB.



ORDINARY SHARES

Will BTR join the bid blitz and target BAT?

The Tobacco Road has been a hard one since the Royal College of Physicians claimed to identify a link between smoking and lung cancer.



Sir Owen Green: prize to crown his career

While Rothmans is a protected species under the control of the Rupert Foundation, it is not inconceivable in the present climate that BAT may sooner or later find itself under the auctioneer's hammer.

certain quarters of the City that BTR has been absent from the current state of billion-pound takeovers, and its own market worth of £4.1 billion puts it within reach of a credible assault on BAT if it wishes.

It would be a career-growing prize for Sir Owen Green, BTR's chairman and chief executive, for at a strike it would put his group into the world's top 20 companies.

The ratings of the three tobacco shares tell their own tale. Rothmans' low-voting 'B' shares at 136p carry a yield of 6.7 per cent on a price-earnings ratio of only 4.7, partly reflecting the lack of bid hopes.

At the other extreme, the Hanson bid has taken Imperial's p/e ratio up to 13.7 and the yield down to 5.5 per cent.

BAT is on a p/e of 6.6, and while its yield is only 5 per cent the dividend is covered 3.6 times, compared with Imperial

and Rothman's cover of twice each.

Although Patrick Sheehy, BAT's formidable chairman, would surely deny any thoughts of defensive tactics, he has made no secret of his desire to divert another large chunk of the group's cash flow towards another acquisition early this year.

The target is likely to be an overseas life insurance company, to complement BAT's Eagle Star and Allied Dunbar insurance operations in this country. We have yet to see Mark Weinberg show his paces at Allied, but Eagle made a poor start under BAT's wing.

Nevertheless, Mr Sheehy has high hopes for insurance as the core of a thorough-going financial services operation. The Allied sales force could clearly be channelled into selling anything from shares to credit.

Oh, and by the way, BTR owns Cornhill Insurance.

Rowe and Pitman, the stockbroker, has recently visited BAT's South American operation and returned with the view that the shares are cheap on the basis of 1986 earnings.

They expect profits to have fallen from £1.4 billion to £1.1 billion before tax in 1985, but recover to £1.3 billion this year, partly in the belief that currency movements cannot be quite so cruel two years running.

Any assessment of Imperial's prospects must await the outcome of the Hanson bid, and the alternative scheme to merge Imperial with United Biscuits. Either deal will be an improvement for Imperials' patient shareholders, but the present share price is dominated by tactical considerations.

Rothmans is the problem child of the trio. Profits were 30 per cent down in the last year to September, at £58.4 million. But kinder currencies, and the absence of exceptional costs on the scale of last year's £44.7 million, should pace the way for a modest gain for the year ending in March.

The group is having an unhappy time with one of its diversifications, the Carling O'Keefe brewing business in Canada, but it also appears to be lacking muscle in the increasingly cut-throat tobacco trade.

Although the yield is safe, the shares are likely to be unexciting performers for some time to come.

William Kay City Editor

NEWS IN BRIEF

BARBIE INVESTMENTS AND FINANCE Results for the six months to September 30 show that the board is not proposing an interim dividend but expects to recommend a final dividend of not less than that for last year.

OVERSEAS CONTAINERS: The group is buying a half share of Trans Freight Lines, hitherto wholly owned by Australia's TNT group.

US NOTEBOOK

Debate in bonds shows up experts

The debate in the bond markets on Wednesday and Thursday represented an indication of the rationality of the so-called sophisticated experts who operate in these markets.

The trouble began with the release of the employment figures for December on Wednesday. These figures are notoriously subject to revision.

Non-agricultural payroll employment rose 320,000 in December. This, combined with a fall in the unemployment rate to 6.9 per cent from 7 per cent, set off a panic in the bond market.

It was conveniently forgotten that during 1985 there were many other months which showed an increase in payroll employment of about 320,000.

So the rise in payroll employment was nothing to write home about but it was used by the bears to carry out a massive shorting operation on the bond market.

Once the panic gathered momentum all sorts of strange stories emerged. We were told that the Arabs were retaliating against the United States by selling their paper assets and using the money to buy gold, knocking the dollar.

I think what really occurred was something that has happened before. A big rise in bond prices is followed by a setback.

I also believe that the participants in the bond market are finding it difficult to rid themselves of the idea that positive economic growth is incompatible with rising bond prices.

Between 1949 and 1969, economic growth in the US averaged more than 4 per cent a year. Between 1970 and 1985, real economic growth has averaged little more than a miserable 2.5 per cent, yet between 1950 and 1970 consumer prices rose on average little more than 3 per cent a year and the 10-year US Government bond yield averaged about 4 per cent - 5 per cent a year.

Thus, it is feasible - and it is the US experience in 20 of the last 35 years - that a relatively high rate of economic growth - 4 per cent plus - was combined with an interest rate of 4 to 5 per cent.

This is a fact which seems to have been forgotten by the so-called experts of Wall Street. Now that the bellwether long bond yield has risen to 9.4 per cent there is talk that it will continue to 10 per cent. This is a naive idea.

Corporations, individuals and institutions are accumulating vast quantities of cash. This money will eventually find its way into the bond market where it will stimulate yet another surge of prices based on the fact that in the current world of disinflation, present bond yields represent top value which is not likely to be repeated for some years.

Maxwell Newton

TEMPUS

Gilts: The world holds its breath and fears more thrills and spills

Horace says it all: *Ira furor brevis est*. A long week in politics, and an even longer one in the markets, aptly demonstrated that.

Traders crawled wearily home last week after the kind of shocks during five trading sessions which induce premature mental fatigue.

A base rate increase to 12 1/2 per cent, as world rates apparently eased? Mediocre money supply figures? Recantation by Dr Kaufman about US rate trends? A furious Cabinet row, involving the resignation of the Defence Secretary? Sterling zipping up and down like a yo-yo? It was all too much.

Traders are uncomfortably aware too that the coming week may well provide a repeat performance, with even bigger thrills and spills. By the weekend, the balance of probability in the Westland imbroglio was swinging yet again in favour of the Anglo-European consortium with the attendant risk of extra political fall-out if United Technologies loses.

Analysis of the structure of current yields and money rates, suggests that markets have adjusted in part for last week's sequence of events. But unless the authorities manage to get rates down quite quickly, gilt returns now on offer fail to offer adequate compensation for the risks attached to holding Government-backed claims. And the authorities' actions suggest that they believe this too.

On January 2, the money markets were trading off a relatively flat yield curve, locked crucially round a three-month interbank rate of 11 1/4 per cent. One month rates were touching 11 1/2 per cent.

For comparison purposes, three-month interbank in



Kaufman recantation about rate trends

Frankfurt was 4.85 per cent, and in Tokyo 7.65 per cent.

A week later, the entire yield structure had shifted upwards by a solid percentage point. Three-month interbank in London was a fraction over 13 per cent, while the remainder of the period rates were 13 per cent. Meanwhile, rates in Frankfurt had eased back to 4.7 per cent, and Japanese money costs were also lower at 7.1 per cent.

Hence the impact of the political/exchange rate crisis has been to shift the absolute level of British rates higher, thus widening the relative differential between London and other world money centres. But the flames of the yield curve, in itself an indication of inherent volatility, suggests that expectations have not improved.

Looking at gilt yields over the same time scale, and treating high coupon stocks as a proxy for the market, it is clear that the biggest losses were suffered in the shorts.

Over the week in question, short yields rose from 11.33 per cent to 11.82 per cent, an increase of 4 per cent. Medium and long dated yields increased by far lower percentage points - by 2.7 and by 2.2 per cent respectively.

The inversion of the yield



Lawson: no change in current-mix of policies?

curve has become still more pronounced. Early in January, 51 basis points separated short and medium yields, and 41 basis points medium and long dated returns. By January 9, the yield gap between shorts and mediums had moved up to 71 basis points.

Hence markets are still giving the authorities some benefit of the doubt. By implication, traders are suggesting that the rise in rates is purely temporary, witness the exaggerated basis points differential between shorts and mediums.

But if base rates remain high, then it is clear that both medium and long dated yields must move up.

The 200 basis point difference between short yields and money market rates should ensure this, if rates do not fall.

The authorities' actions at the end of the week suggest they are aware of the delicacy of sentiment in the market. Normally, they signal the end of a period of trench warfare by issuing a juicy tap on attractive terms.

But the Government Broker failed to appear on Friday, despite his manifest eagerness last week to sell stock. Real yields are still rising, and have now crossed the crucial 4 per cent threshold. The authorities

appear reluctant to price the market at current levels.

This reluctance is understandable, since key elements in what is effectively the topology of the market are still shifting around. Until last week, the US, for example, has had a positive influence on sentiment. New York was buoyed by hopes of a unanimous cut in the Federal Reserve's discount rate, itself the by-product of a weak economy.

In a binding statistical flash, notably through the American unemployment figures, it transpired that the complete opposite was likely to happen.

Dr Kaufman's conversion to the growth track provided an appropriate coda to the switch in sentiment, as well as creating havoc in the markets.

Not has the market fully adjusted to the latest steps in the yield gap between shorts and mediums? Does the violent nature of Mr Healey's departure from high office virtually guarantee the remainder of the Cabinet their jobs for the duration of the current Parliament. Is the Chancellor safe?

But at the same time, last week also saw a notable resurgence in the authority of central banks. The Federal Reserve blocked successfully the Reagan junk bonds sanctioning move, while the Bank of England was conspicuously successful both in its money market operations - the base rate rise was one of the smoothest ever seen - and in its signalling to traders.

Pending any Cabinet shuffle of the Bank and the Chancellor can learn to live together and develop a mutual respect for each other, the outlook for gilt yields might even improve. But it is early to forecast such a radical departure from recent practice.

Meantime, the gilt market seeks a meeting, at his earliest convenience, with the Government Broker.

Bank of Ireland announces that with effect from close of business on 13th January 1986 its Base Rate for lending is increased from 11 1/2% to 12 1/2% per annum

Klearfold, Inc. Offer for Sale by ROBERT FLEMING & CO. LIMITED of 5,100,000 shares of common stock of par value \$0.01 each at 118p per share, payable in full on application.

UNLISTED SECURITIES table with columns for Capitalization, Company, Price, Chgs, Gross Div, etc. Includes sections for INVESTMENT TRUSTS and FINANCIAL TRUSTS.

IMPERIAL. FAMOUS BRANDS DOING FAMOUSLY.

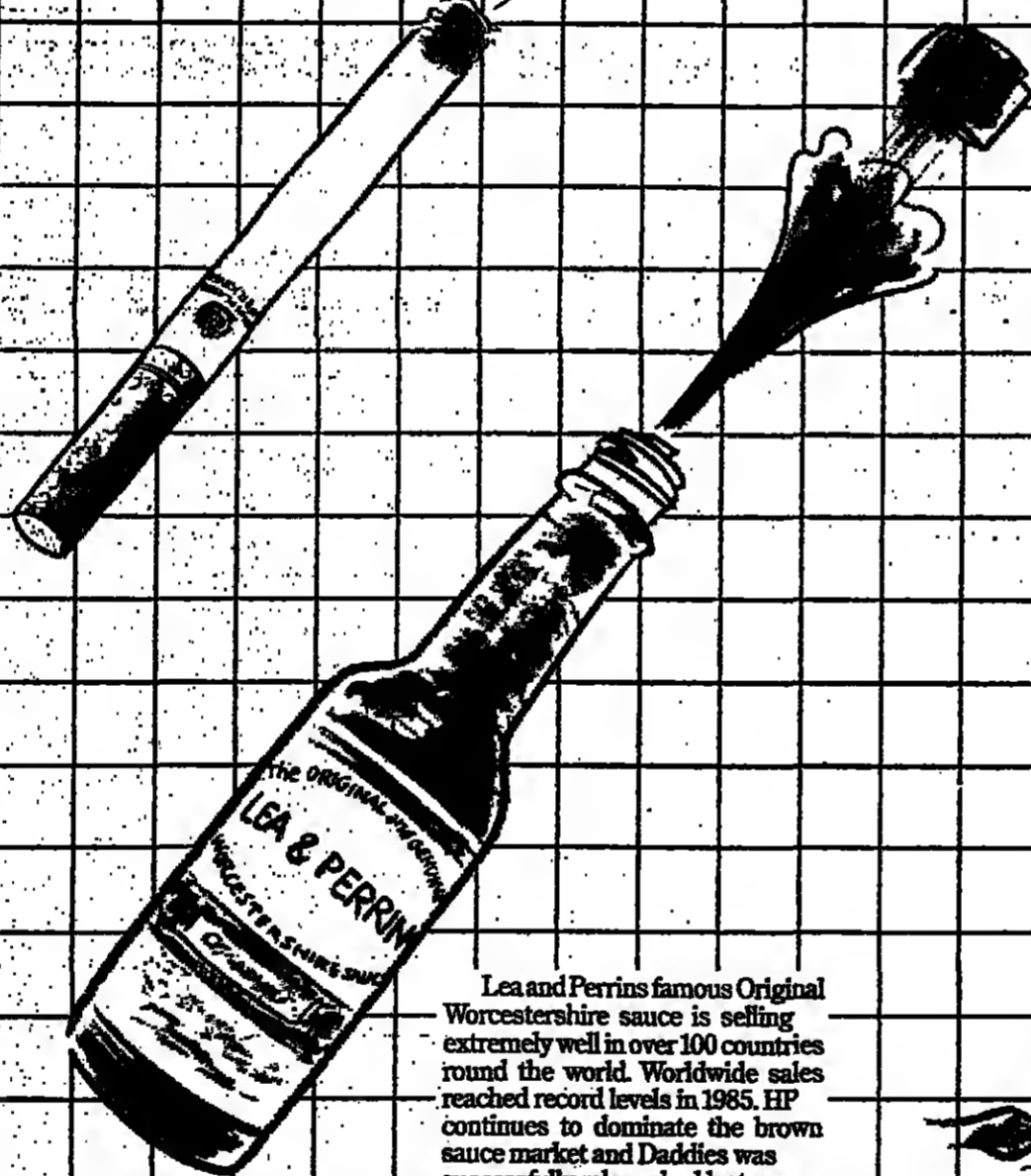


Imperial's leading brands of beer include Courage Best, Courage Light Ale, John Smith's Bitter, Hofmeister and Kronenbourg lager. In 1985, they went down extremely well for a fifth year in succession. Our brewing and leisure divisions profits increased by a further £16 million to £97 million.

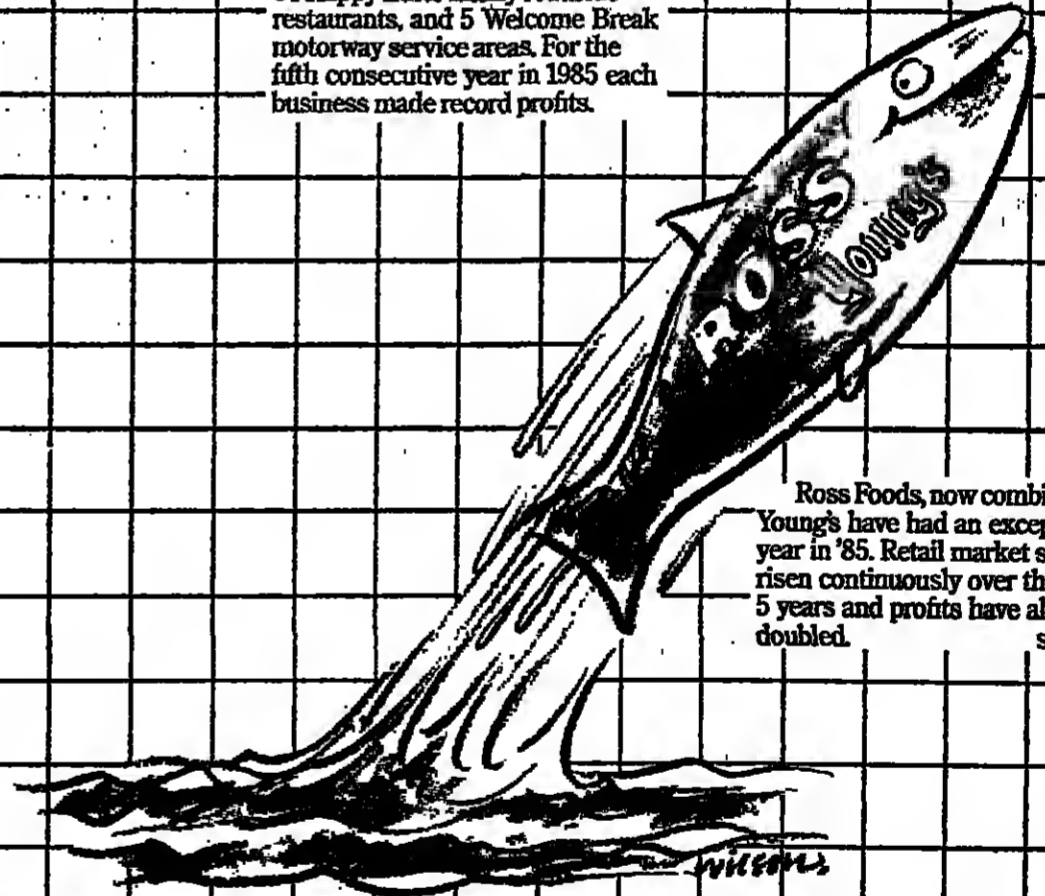


We own over 5,000 Courage and John Smith pubs, 78 Harvester and other restaurants, 30 Anchor hotels, 64 Happy Eater family roadside restaurants, and 5 Welcome Break motorway service areas. For the fifth consecutive year in 1985 each business made record profits.

We have 7 out of the 10 leading cigarette brands (including the highly successful Superkings). The tobacco division's contribution to profits continues to grow, reaching a record £125 million in '85, an increase of £13 million on 1984.



Lea and Perrins famous Original Worcestershire sauce is selling extremely well in over 100 countries round the world. Worldwide sales reached record levels in 1985. HP continues to dominate the brown sauce market and Daddies was successfully relaunched last year. Source: MGS.



Ross Foods, now combined with Young's have had an exceptional year in '85. Retail market share has risen continuously over the past 5 years and profits have almost doubled. Source: AGB.

All these highly successful brands (and many more) come from one highly successful group.

The Imperial Group.

Careful management has guaranteed that Imperial brands have been increasingly profitable over the past 5 years.

Building consumer brands, and marketing them, is a very particular skill.

Imperial has enormous experience in this field. And this has fuelled outstanding profit growth.

Against this record, we believe Hanson

Trust's bid for Imperial has no industrial logic. It is unwelcome, unwanted and is grossly inadequate.

Our brands, our shareholders, our employees as well as our customers will get along famously without it.

Famous brands doing famously.

IMPERIAL GROUP

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USM-REVIEW

Microsystems leads race to be first new issue of 1986

The Microsystems Group, which makes a range of electronic products, looks like achieving the distinction of being the first USM new issue of 1986. It has been widely and confidently forecast that the junior market's new issue business will boom to record levels this year. But 1986 has got off to a quiet start with only four newcomers having declared their USM ambitions. On the launch pad with Microsystems are Wicks, the American controlled do-it-yourself group which is seeking to raise some £8 million through an offer for sale; Brookmount, an Ulster property group and Marina Developments which runs nine marinas. But Microsystems looks like winning the 1986 race. About £3 million is to be raised through a placing by Hoare Govett, the broker, a week today and dealings should start on January 28. Microsystems looks a quality company and the shares are likely to arrive on 14 times last year's earnings following a 35 per cent tax charge. Profits have climbed from £148,000 in 1981 to £1,395,000 in the year to end last October. Sales in this period rose from £1.3 million to £7.6 million. The company has, however, had to overcome more than a few wrong numbers at its Callog operation. In 1982 and 1983, Microsystems achieved "a substantial proportion" of its sales and profits by making equipment for Callog, a company which sold a system which records the time and duration of a telephone call and number dialled. But the Callog company ran into substantial losses, and Microsystems decided to buy its customer. It has turned the business around and in the 3 1/2 months to end October Callog achieved profits of £24,000. Microsystems was able to shrug off the adverse impact of Callog because of the success of its Wayfarer ticketing system which is used on one man buses and its components side. Besides the Wayfarer ticket machines, the company also makes the Sheriff taximeter, which clocks up the cost of a journey. A German company has started proceedings against Microsystems over Sheriff, alleging that it infringed three of its patents. But Microsystems believes it has a good defence and says Sheriff accounted for less than 5 per cent of its turnover last year. Although now deep into manufacturing the company started as a design consultancy. Dr Roger Harding, aged 42, and Dr Michael Jackson, aged 40, left the Plessey electronics group 11 years ago with the aim of exploiting microprocessor technology. Within a year or so the group was manufacturing office own brands. It then went on to build up a presence in such areas as electronic cash registers and bank note dispensers. The chairman is Dr Christopher Wilson, a former ICL managing director. Mr Nigel McCorkell, one of the men behind the rapid rise of Meggitt Group, another electronics group, is also a director. Even before it comes to the USM, Microsystems has an impressive array of institutional shareholders. When it rescued Callog some of the company's existing institutional shareholders were asked to pump £475,000 into the business mostly in the form of preference shares. The chairman is Dr Christopher Wilson, a former ICL managing director. Mr Nigel McCorkell, one of the men behind the rapid rise of Meggitt Group, another electronics group, is also a director. Even before it comes to the USM, Microsystems has an impressive array of institutional shareholders. When it rescued Callog some of the company's existing institutional shareholders were asked to pump £475,000 into the business mostly in the form of preference shares.

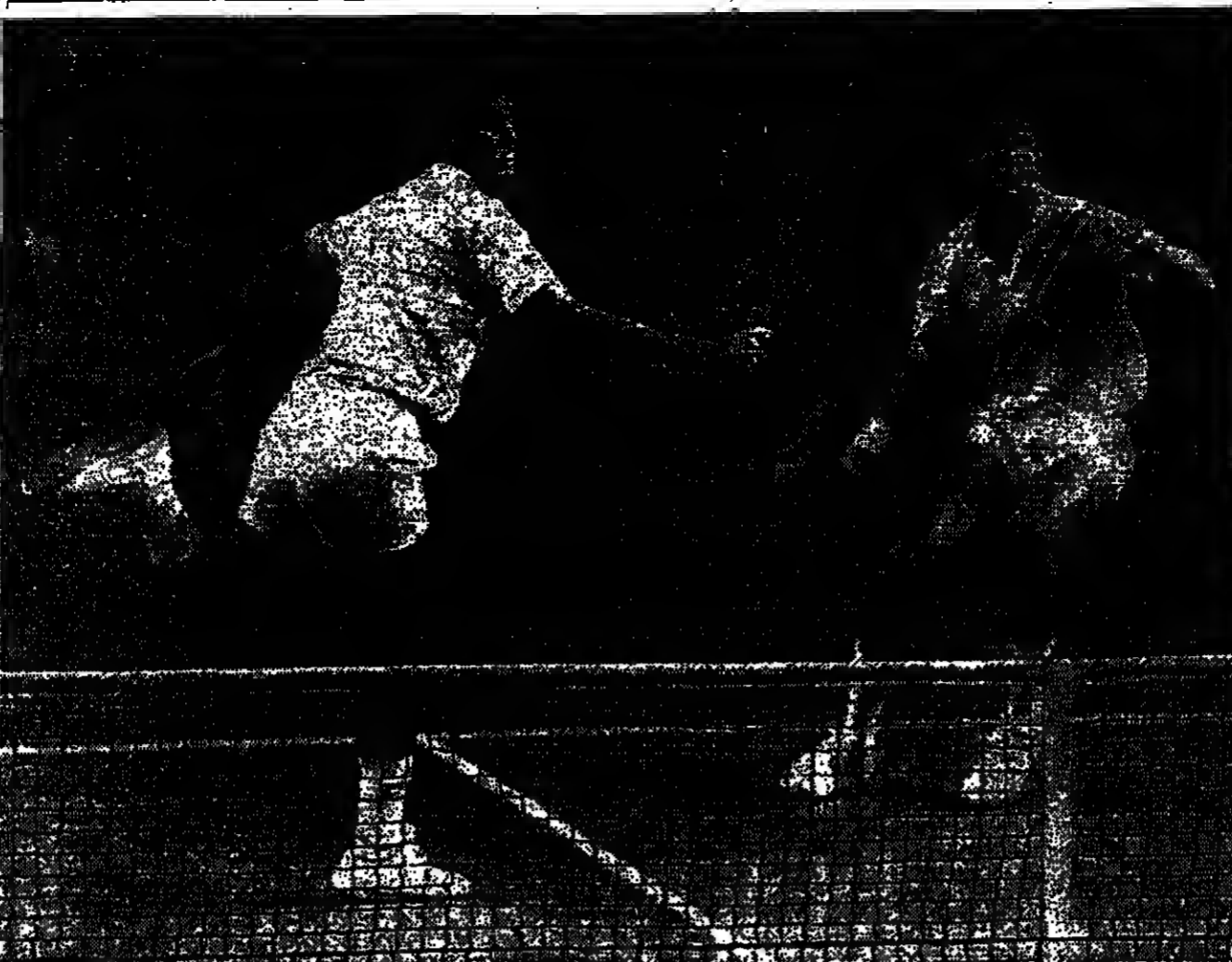
COMPANY NEWS

- BESPAK: For the half-year in Oct 31, with figures in £000, turnover was 5,104 (6,616), while the pretax profit was 56 (1,377). Earnings per share were 0.9p (0.94p). An interim dividend of 1.75p (1.75p) is being paid on Feb 25.
VOLVO: The company has reached an agreement with Renault to acquire a 9.4 per cent interest in Volvo Personvagnar (Volvo Cars Corporation). As a result, Volvo now owns 100 per cent of Volvo Personvagnar.
SPEYHAWK: The offer to shareholders of Speyhawk Fund trusts have sold 550,000 ordinary shares of the company in two batches, thereby reducing their holding to 2,450,000 shares (4.78 per cent).
FLOYD OIL: The company has sold its interest in the Claymore Field in Sovereign Oil and Gas for \$5.8 million (£4 million). The net proceeds of the sale, after paying back a loan secured on the Claymore interest, are £2.5 million. Floyd now has no indebtedness and cash balances of about \$4 million.
BOWTROPHE HOLDINGS: The company has acquired the share capital of Stairpoint Electric for a consideration of £2,320,500, satisfied by £1,929,904 in cash and the balance by the allotment and issue of 99,999 fully paid ordinary shares of 10p each in the capital of Bowtrophe.
GENERAL ACCIDENT: Net new sums assured for 1985 totalled £4.22 billion (£3.64 billion) of which £2.21 billion (£2.34 billion) covered life business and £2.31 billion (£1.5 billion) related to pensions business.
NURDIN AND PEACOCK: The company is launching a restricted range of 26 permanently price-marked products under a new Happy Shopper label backed by a £500,000 promotion campaign.
IMPERIAL METALS: METALS GROUP: Imperial Metals Corporation has raised the group's cash resources in 1985 to £12.25 million with a further interest sale of its Close Lake Uranium Property in the Athabasca Basin of Northern Saskatchewan. Last month a 10 per cent interest was sold for £1.5 million, a 9 per cent interest for £1.8 million.
LAND INVESTORS: Results for the six months to September 28 include an interim dividend of 0.3p (same). With figures in £000, gross rental income was 2,482 (£2,538) and pretax profit 1,500 (£1,581). Earnings per share were 0.92p (0.89p).
BEIT: The company is not increasing its holding in SGB to more than 15 per cent, while its bid for SGB is being examined by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.
LLOYDS BANK: Lloyds Bank Finance has arranged a £15 million line of credit to the Bank for Foreign Trade of the USSR to enable Russian buyers to place orders in the United Kingdom for capital goods and associated services.
CAMBRIDGE ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES: The company has acquired Flexible Technology for a consideration equivalent to £3.618 million.
OCEAN TRANSPORT AND TRADING: The company has agreed on the purchase of three new businesses - Freedom LPG, St Helen's Freight Forwarding Business and company and B. Chalkley, it also opens a bulk handling terminal.
NOBLE AND LUND: The board is negotiating with the shareholders of a private manufacturing company for possible acquisition. A further announcement will be made should contracts be exchanged.
PEACHEY PROPERTY CORPORATION: The company has acquired for cash a reversionary freehold portfolio of 13 properties from Legal and General Assurance (Pensions Management) for £16,025 million.

APPOINTMENTS

- Manson Finance Trust: Mr L A W Evans is now group managing director and Mr R Williams has become a director.
Enkella: Mr David Jones has become financial director and company secretary. Mr Roger Gifford and Mr Roberto Lefa have been made directors. Bradstock Blunt (Northern): Mr Timothy Culverhouse has become an associate director.
J Walter Thompson Co: Mr Miles Colebrook becomes managing director on Monday. Mr Allen Thomas, executive creative director also becomes deputy chairman and Mr Michael Cooper-Evans takes over as chairman of the JWT group in Britain, while retaining his role as deputy regional director.
Scantronic Holdings: Mr Ray Day has been made financial director and company secretary. Mr Gerry Landers has joined the boards of Scantronic and Scantronic Radio Systems.
Frank B Hall (Holdings): Mr Anthony Piment is now a director.
Solomon Brothers Incorporated: Mr Jerald Wigtowitz is now managing director.
Morphy Richards: Mr N J Wignett is joining as executive chairman.
Rainers (Jewellers): Mr Victor Rainer has become a director.
Rolls-Royce: Sir Philip Shelbourne is now a non-executive director.
The Dee Corporation: Mr Kevin O'Keefe is to be responsible for business development in the United States. Mr Tony Butler will become planning and business development director. Mr Alan Penman becomes finance director.
Mr Peter Stables, special projects director, will become chairman of FA Wellworth. Mr David Fisher, managing director of Carrefour, and Mr Peter Thibletton, managing director of Gateway Foodmarkets, have joined the Dee board.

TENNIS: GUNTARDT AND TAROCZY WIN MAZDA TOURNAMENT AGAINST FAMILIAR RIVALS



Over to you: Annacone (left) and van Rensburg, see title hopes disappear (Photograph: Chris Cole)

Double act that runs and runs

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Heinz Gunthardt and Balazs Taroczy, the Wimbledon champions, beat Paul Annacone and Christo van Rensburg, champions of Australia, by 6-4, 1-6, 6-7, 6-4 in the final of the Mazda Cars doubles tournament at the Albert Hall yesterday. The match lasted three hours and 36 minutes, including a 17-minute break for repairs after van Rensburg had plugged off the platform and brought down the entire length of stop setting along one side of the court. This is the third time Gunthardt and Taroczy have won the event and on every occasion they have had to beat the same pair twice, first in the all-play-all series and then in the final. Their two matches against Annacone and van Rensburg spanned 10 sets, 111 games, and seven hours and 47 minutes. Yesterday's match could have finished 38 sooner because of obvious way to finish a rally. But they repeatedly charmed us with subtlety exploring the short angles with assured delicacy in trying to create an opening or exploit one. The flashing beauty of the rallies was often enchanting but this was never art for art's sake. Every shot had a purpose. Even the tandem formation - with the server's partner on the same side of the court to inhibit cross-court returns - was used sparingly and with discretion. We knew how sound and crafty Taroczy would be, with his variety of spin and his command of tennis geometry. We knew how hard and hard-headed with the forthright Gunthardt, whose fast reactions and exemplary volleying were soon evident. But Annacone and van Rensburg were less familiar. Their penchant for chipping returns low over the net and then charging to the forecourt

was always exciting. Annacone served and smashed viciously with a serve of 130 mph but otherwise, like van Rensburg, displayed a gentle touch and was quick and competent in intercepting. Van Rensburg's volleying was more than compensated for a comparatively modest service. A delightful final ended with a dramatic twist in the plot: Annacone who had never had a break point against him, lost his service in the last game of the match. The oldest man on court, Taroczy, wrapped it up with a backhand volley and, obviously, was rather pleased that at last he could get off court and rest and ailing back. Heavily favoured by the crowd, the doubles specialist, van Rensburg, who had been a partner in the Wimbledon final, was a surprise. He had a good command of tennis geometry. We knew how hard and hard-headed with the forthright Gunthardt, whose fast reactions and exemplary volleying were soon evident. But Annacone and van Rensburg were less familiar. Their penchant for chipping returns low over the net and then charging to the forecourt

Misfits who desire to be loved

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

I wonder, perhaps tennis has got it completely wrong. Perhaps the ideal form of tennis is not singles at all, but doubles. To spend Saturday watching the disk and keel-bum of top class tennis at the Albert Hall, made one think that doubles is the best, and that it is singles that ought to be the poor relation. For a start, doubles is what most sensible people play when they get on to a tennis court: there is less running to do, the rallies are more like the length you see on television, and best of all, you have most good chances to make the most sublimely enjoyable shot in the game, the winning volley. But top-class tennis has always been about singles. The great doubles specialists are intriguing oddities: misfits. I suspect that doubles specialists are much nicer than singles players, because their companionship is dominated by a desire to be loved. Most natural doubles players habitually lose at singles, because they wish to be loved by their opponent, and so lack the desire to be the legions of singles players they always play a fraction below the level of their

server, the most unsatisfactory part of singles, is instead in doubles, because the returner has more square feet of court to aim at. In Saturday's semi-final, it was the dapper service returns into the backcourt that made the difference. The singles specialist, van Rensburg, who had been a partner in the Wimbledon final, was a surprise. He had a good command of tennis geometry. We knew how hard and hard-headed with the forthright Gunthardt, whose fast reactions and exemplary volleying were soon evident. But Annacone and van Rensburg were less familiar. Their penchant for chipping returns low over the net and then charging to the forecourt

FOR THE RECORD

- SQUASH RACKETS: LONDON: Tony Hove 3-2.
CRICKET: SHEFFIELD SHIELDS: Adelaide: South Australia 313 and 274 for 5 (5) Bishop 167 net run. Tasmania 343 (5) Budge 121. A. Westwood 450 for 7 (4).
LACROSSE: BRINE NORTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: 1. W. Widdows 13; 2. Sale 14; 3. Urnington 16; 4. 2. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846. 847. 848. 849. 850. 851. 852. 853. 854. 855. 856. 857. 858. 859. 860. 861. 862. 863. 864. 865. 866. 867. 868. 869. 870. 871. 872. 873. 874. 875. 876. 877. 878. 879. 880. 881. 882. 883. 884. 885. 886. 887. 888. 889. 890. 891. 892. 893. 894. 895. 896. 897. 898. 899. 900. 901. 902. 903. 904. 905. 906. 907. 908. 909. 910. 911. 912. 913. 914. 915. 916. 917. 918. 919. 920. 921. 922. 923. 924. 925. 926. 927. 928. 929. 930. 931. 932. 933. 934. 935. 936. 937. 938. 939. 940. 941. 942. 943. 944. 945. 946. 947. 948. 949. 950. 951. 952. 953. 954. 955. 956. 957. 958. 959. 960. 961. 962. 963. 964. 965. 966. 967. 968. 969. 970. 971. 972. 973. 974. 975. 976. 977. 978. 979. 980. 981. 982. 983. 984. 985. 986. 987. 988. 989. 990. 991. 992. 993. 994. 995. 996. 997. 998. 999. 1000.
TENNIS: ATLANTA: Round Robin Challenge tournament: 1. Lend (2) in 1st round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 2. Lend (1) in 2nd round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 3. Lend (1) in 3rd round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 4. Lend (1) in 4th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 5. Lend (1) in 5th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 6. Lend (1) in 6th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 7. Lend (1) in 7th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 8. Lend (1) in 8th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 9. Lend (1) in 9th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 10. Lend (1) in 10th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 11. Lend (1) in 11th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 12. Lend (1) in 12th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 13. Lend (1) in 13th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 14. Lend (1) in 14th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 15. Lend (1) in 15th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 16. Lend (1) in 16th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 17. Lend (1) in 17th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 18. Lend (1) in 18th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 19. Lend (1) in 19th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 20. Lend (1) in 20th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 21. Lend (1) in 21st round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 22. Lend (1) in 22nd round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 23. Lend (1) in 23rd round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 24. Lend (1) in 24th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 25. Lend (1) in 25th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 26. Lend (1) in 26th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 27. Lend (1) in 27th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 28. Lend (1) in 28th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 29. Lend (1) in 29th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 30. Lend (1) in 30th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 31. Lend (1) in 31st round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 32. Lend (1) in 32nd round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 33. Lend (1) in 33rd round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 34. Lend (1) in 34th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 35. Lend (1) in 35th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 36. Lend (1) in 36th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 37. Lend (1) in 37th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 38. Lend (1) in 38th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 39. Lend (1) in 39th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 40. Lend (1) in 40th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 41. Lend (1) in 41st round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 42. Lend (1) in 42nd round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 43. Lend (1) in 43rd round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 44. Lend (1) in 44th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 45. Lend (1) in 45th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 46. Lend (1) in 46th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 47. Lend (1) in 47th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 48. Lend (1) in 48th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 49. Lend (1) in 49th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 50. Lend (1) in 50th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 51. Lend (1) in 51st round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 52. Lend (1) in 52nd round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 53. Lend (1) in 53rd round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 54. Lend (1) in 54th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 55. Lend (1) in 55th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 56. Lend (1) in 56th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 57. Lend (1) in 57th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 58. Lend (1) in 58th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 59. Lend (1) in 59th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 60. Lend (1) in 60th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 61. Lend (1) in 61st round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 62. Lend (1) in 62nd round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 63. Lend (1) in 63rd round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 64. Lend (1) in 64th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 65. Lend (1) in 65th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 66. Lend (1) in 66th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 67. Lend (1) in 67th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 68. Lend (1) in 68th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 69. Lend (1) in 69th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 70. Lend (1) in 70th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 71. Lend (1) in 71st round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 72. Lend (1) in 72nd round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 73. Lend (1) in 73rd round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 74. Lend (1) in 74th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 75. Lend (1) in 75th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 76. Lend (1) in 76th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 77. Lend (1) in 77th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 78. Lend (1) in 78th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 79. Lend (1) in 79th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 80. Lend (1) in 80th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 81. Lend (1) in 81st round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 82. Lend (1) in 82nd round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 83. Lend (1) in 83rd round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 84. Lend (1) in 84th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 85. Lend (1) in 85th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 86. Lend (1) in 86th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 87. Lend (1) in 87th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 88. Lend (1) in 88th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 89. Lend (1) in 89th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 90. Lend (1) in 90th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 91. Lend (1) in 91st round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 92. Lend (1) in 92nd round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 93. Lend (1) in 93rd round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 94. Lend (1) in 94th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 95. Lend (1) in 95th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 96. Lend (1) in 96th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 97. Lend (1) in 97th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 98. Lend (1) in 98th round (US, 6-2, 6-3). 99. Lend (1) in 99th round (US, 7-6, 6-2). 100. Lend (1) in 100th round (US, 6-2, 6-3).
MOTOR RALLYING: PARIS-DAKAR RALLY: 1st stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 2nd stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 3rd stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 4th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 5th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 6th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 7th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 8th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 9th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 10th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 11th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 12th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 13th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 14th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 15th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 16th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 17th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 18th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 19th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 20th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 21st stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 22nd stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 23rd stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 24th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6, 6-2). 25th stage: Agostini to 1st place (US, 7-6,

FOOTBALL: LIVERPOOL'S YOUNG FORWARD READY TO GO TO MEXICO WHILE HUGHES WAITS

League set March date for talks on changes

The Football League are looking for a revolution in the game, and have called an extraordinary general meeting to stir them into action.

Thatcher's card compromise

The Government has backed down from its demand that clubs should have a membership card scheme, following last season's hooligan problems.

Irish name day

The Republic of Ireland have postponed naming their new manager until their FA executive committee meeting on February 7.

Scots invitation

Scotland may try to arrange a World Cup warm-up match against Northern Ireland in the United States.

Hateley on mark

Mark Hateley, the England forward, scored one of AC Milan's goals in their 2-0 away victory over Lecce in the Italian Cup.



Avoiding the Rush: McClelland holds off and Liverpool are about to go 2-1 ahead. (Photograph: Peter Llewellyn).

Walsh stakes England claim

By Stuart Jones Football Correspondent. Liverpool... 2. Manchester United... 3. Arsenal... 4. Tottenham... 5.

Walsh equalized moments before half-time. A needless and messy collision between two Watford players released Rush for the first time, and after a swift interchange with Johnson, the home side were punished for their lack of composure.

Rush thrice. McMahon and Molloy were all denied, before Rush, with the assistance of Johnson, put Liverpool into a deserved lead. Although it was his fourteenth goal of the season, he had claimed only one in his previous 10 outings.

Swindon equal record and return to the top. Swindon equalled a club record set over 60 years ago by winning their 13th consecutive home League game.

Hughes has work at home before trying playgrounds abroad

By Stuart Jones. Reports that Mark Hughes, potentially the most talented forward in the Football League, is to leave Manchester United are gaining credibility.

Transfer is on again. John Siverek looks certain to join Jesper Olsen, his Danish international colleague, at Manchester United.

Game of the Commitment

haves and have-nots is vital at Oxford. Coventry City... 3. Aston Villa... 3. Oxford United... 1. Manchester United... 3.

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Table with 10 columns: Team, P, W, D, L, F, A, Pts. Lists various football clubs and their league performance.

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Wigan jump as much for relief as joy

By Keith Macklin. The closing minutes of this pulsating John Player Special Trophy final at Eland Road lasted an eternity for Wigan and flew by for Rovers.

Wigan's galaxy of highly-priced stars were rarely allowed to parade their flowing skills, as determined Rovers, despite being without Prohm, Fairbairn and Hogan, put up a magnificent display against the favourites.

Wigan's credit they immediately gathered their wits and regrouped, and beautiful passing from right to left saw Ella give Ford an overlap for the try that proved the winning one.

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England's young first strings tie up easy win

By Colin McQuillan. Led for the first time by the young players on whom depends their competitive future, England yesterday completed a three-day rout of the rest of Britain in the annual biennial international tournament at Telford.

Lucy Soutter, aged 18, and Jamie Hickox aged 21, who will complete this year's Blue Stripes series in the '86-87 season, were the stars of the show.

Hickox ranked third in the latest England list, although it must be said that four or five players might have challenged that seniority had they played in the national championships in November.

A similar scoreline against Aberystwyth underlined England's domestic superiority. Ashley Taylor, playing at fourth string, wiggled won 9-0, 9-0, 9-0, at the weekend and dropped only four points in his third match.

Hearts fly into the sun

By Hugh Taylor. Fast, open football and cheered by spectacular goals, Mackay, who had seen his penalty kick saved by Thomson, made up for that miss by opening the scoring in the 62nd minute with a fine shot.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davle and Peter Davalle

BBC 1
6.00 Breakfast AM.
6.30 Breakfast Time with Sonia Scott and Neil Smith.

TV-am
6.15 Good Morning Britain with Anne Diamond and Nick Owen.



Robert Graves: Bookmark special on BBC 2, 7.30 pm.

Choice
versus. I had forgotten how photogenic Graves was, and I needed to be reminded how accessible his philosophy was about love and war...

Channel 4
2.30 Winston Churchill - The Valiant Years. Part 10 of the 26-programme history of the Second World War...

Radio 4
On long wave, also VHF stereo.
5.55 Shipping Forecast. 6.00 News Briefing.

Radio 2
6.00 Ceefax.
9.15 Daytime on Two: choosing a job in the catering business.

Radio 1
News on the hour. Headlines 5.30pm, 6.30, 7.30, 8.30, 9.30, 10.30, 11.30.

Opera & Ballet
ALBERT 01 436 8778 on 379 6555
6.00 THE WALKING WICKET

Concerts
ARCADE 01 528 7828 8.30pm
8.30pm The Royal Opera House Covent Garden

Theatres
GREYHOUND THEATRE 01 578 8421
8.30pm The Cenci

National Theatre, South Bank
NATIONAL THEATRE 01 978 3000
8.30pm The Tempest

Prince Edward, 7th St
PRINCE EDWARD 01 437 6877
8.30pm The Tempest

West End
STARDUST 01 578 8421
8.30pm The Cenci

West End
STARDUST 01 578 8421
8.30pm The Cenci

West End
STARDUST 01 578 8421
8.30pm The Cenci

also on page 26

RENTALS

PERSONAL COLUMNS

Trade 01-837 2104 and 01-278 9232 Private 01-837 3333 or 3311

DEATHS
On January 9, 1986, at Lincoln Hospital, after an illness involving pneumonia, Mrs. Mary Ann...

BIRTHS
On January 8th at Lincoln Hospital, Mrs. Mary Ann gave birth to a son...

DEATHS
On January 10th at Lincoln Hospital, after an illness involving pneumonia, Mrs. Mary Ann...

DEATHS
On January 11th at Lincoln Hospital, after an illness involving pneumonia, Mrs. Mary Ann...

DEATHS
On January 12th at Lincoln Hospital, after an illness involving pneumonia, Mrs. Mary Ann...

DEATHS
On January 13th at Lincoln Hospital, after an illness involving pneumonia, Mrs. Mary Ann...

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On January 14th at Lincoln Hospital, after an illness involving pneumonia, Mrs. Mary Ann...

DEATHS
On January 15th at Lincoln Hospital, after an illness involving pneumonia, Mrs. Mary Ann...

DEATHS
On January 16th at Lincoln Hospital, after an illness involving pneumonia, Mrs. Mary Ann...

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On January 17th at Lincoln Hospital, after an illness involving pneumonia, Mrs. Mary Ann...

DEATHS
On January 18th at Lincoln Hospital, after an illness involving pneumonia, Mrs. Mary Ann...

DEATHS
On January 19th at Lincoln Hospital, after an illness involving pneumonia, Mrs. Mary Ann...

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FLAT SHARING

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SKI WEST STANDBY

WINTER SPORTS
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SKI BONNE NEIGE

WINTER SPORTS
SKI HOLIDAYS FROM £39
JANUARY SUPERSAVERS

WINTER SPORTS
WINTER SUN BARGAINS
VENTURE HOLIDAYS

WINTER SPORTS
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DISCOUNTED FARES

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ST. JOHN'S WOOD
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FLIGHTS MADE EASY
The search is over. One call to Holidayair...

Fantasy Iceland
Iceland, a fantasy island where nature, hand in hand with the legends...

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refers pain in hips and lower back...

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The carpet collection... just a selection of our many reductions...

ASSEN ONLY HORSE RIDING HOLIDAYS
HOLIDAY HORSE RIDING HOLIDAYS

THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
THE PLANO WORKSHOP

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Modern equipment and better weather ease passage to the South Pole

Antarctic party follows in Scott's footsteps

By Gregory Neale

Robert Swan, Roger Mear and Gareth Wood have followed in the footsteps of Captain Scott's journey to the South Pole...

Swan, Mear and Wood set off from their base camp dragging their specially-designed sledges...



Swan, Mear and Wood set off from their base camp dragging their specially-designed sledges

Like Scott, Swan, Mear and Wood, together with their colleagues at their base-camp at Cape Evans...

While Swan, Mear and Wood enjoyed good conditions, Scott's team retraced its steps in worsening weather...

Swan, Mear and Wood used modern rationing that included sufficient for three daily meals, including freeze-dried chicken, eggs, butter, soup and chocolate...

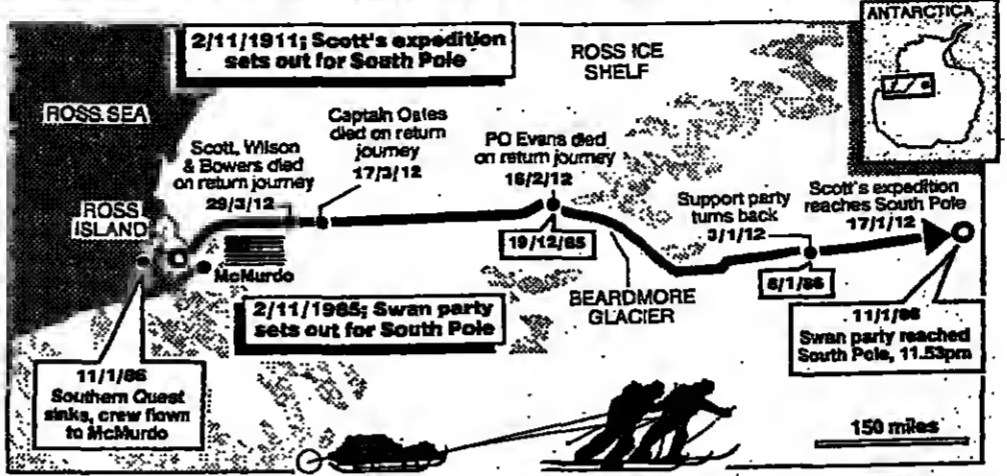
Finally, Scott suffered appalling misfortune as the blizzards continued. Evans, regarded as the strongest man of the party, had a fall and died of his injuries...



Robert Swan: a year with the Antarctic Survey



Robert Mear (above) and Gareth Wood (below)



The ill-fated Scott expedition at the pole in January, 1911: (standing from left) Oates, Bowers and Scott with Wilson and Evans sitting

Letter from Tripoli Lonely Briton who waits for justice

James Leonard Abra looked a very lonely man indeed. High Court Number Two in Tripoli, Libya, is not a large room, but its white, wooden benches were packed, the last rows with families of the seven other men in the dock. The court president and his two assistants, the prosecuting counsel and the clerk of the court all sat round a long desk piled with thick files...

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

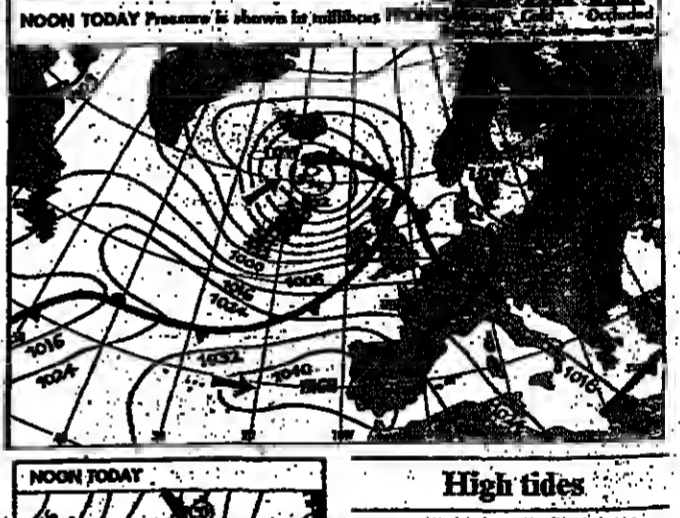
Today's events Music Belfast Music Circle recital, Harty Room, Queen's University, Belfast, 7.45. General Antique fair, Town Hall, Bakers, Derbyshire, 10 to 5. Exhibitions in progress Constructed Images, Ramesgate Library Gallery, Guildford, Surrey, 9.30 to 10.6, Thurs, Sat 9.30 to 5, Fri 9.30 to 8, closed Sun (ends Jan 18). The Spirit of Japan - photographs, University of Ulster, York Street, Belfast, Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5, closed Sat and Sun (ends Jan 16). Paintings by Tom Kerr, Joy Clements and Wilfred Haughton, Malone Gallery, 31 Malone Road, Belfast, Mon to Sat 9.30 to 5, closed Sun (ends Jan 31).

Fuel economy The Department of Energy has published a booklet, Compare your home heating costs, designed as a guide to an economic costing of fuel, and which gives information about the costs of different fuels and heating methods. Write to the Department of Energy, Room 1312, Thames House, South, Millbank, London SW1P 4QP.

Nature notes Song thrushes fall silent during the cold spell, but only most of them are late in their territories, singing again. Starlings are singing on rooftops and chimney-pots, often imitating birds as various as gulls and moorhens. They declare themselves to be the owners of their territory not only by their song, but also by flapping their wings vigorously, especially when another starting comes near.

Roads Midlands: M5: Contraflow between junctions 4 and 5 (Bromsgrove/Droitwich), only one lane northbound. Northbound entry at junction 5 closed. A34: Expected delays on northbound carriageway at Hamford in Staffordshire. A41: Temporary lights on Warwick road, 3 miles N of Birmingham road, Warwickshire, Warwick at Eaton, Warwickshire, delays.

Weather A deepening depression S of Iceland will move eastwards towards northern Scotland. London, SE England, East Angles, Bedfordshire, mostly cloudy; rain in evening; wind W fresh or strong; max temp 9 to 11C (48 to 52F). Central S England, E W Midlands: Rather cloudy, rain in afternoon and evening; wind SW fresh or strong; max temp 9 to 10C (48 to 50F).



The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,942. A crossword puzzle grid with numbers in the squares. The grid is 13 squares wide and 20 squares high.

Anniversaries Births: Charles Perrault, writer of fairy tales, Paris, 1628. Deaths: Edmund Spenser, London 1599; George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, London, 1691; Stephen Collins Foster, composer, New York 1864; James Joyce, author of Ulysses, Zurich, 1941. Keir Hardie was elected President of the Independent Labour Party at its first conference, Bradford, 1893. Today is the Feast of Saint Hilary of Poitiers who was born c 315, the son of a wealthy, pagan family. In 350 he was converted to Christianity and three years later was consecrated Bishop of Poitiers. Throughout his life he was a champion of orthodoxy against Arianism. He died c 368. Pius IX named him a Doctor of the Church in 1851.

Parliament today Commons (2.30): Public Order Bill, second reading, Motion on seat belt regulations. The papers The Sunday Times says that the resignation of Mr Heseltine is a body blow to the Government, but not a fatal one. The damage done need not be long-lasting but the episode confirms that Mrs Thatcher is too dictatorial. In times of great national effort Mrs Thatcher's style of leadership is a national asset. In more normal times it can be counter-productive. The Observer says that the former Defence Secretary had a good case and will owe never to be forgiven by Mrs Thatcher. His act of defiance may have been hurtful to her and unhelpful to the Government but it has "even more certainly been good for the future democratic health of the Conservative Party". The Sunday Telegraph, in contrast, says that Mr Heseltine has chosen to discredit the Prime Minister "over an issue of minor importance". In the process he has discredited his own judgment as well.

Bond winners Winners in this week's Premium Bond prize draw: £100,000, 17RN 335543 (the winner lives in West Midlands); £25,000, 21Z 664797 (Bristol); £25,000, 1DZ 351443 (Dorset).

Lighting-up time London Yesterday: Temp: max 8 to 10, 9C (48 to 50F); min 2 to 4, 36 to 39F. Wind: light to fresh, backing SW, strong to gale; sea moderate to rough, strong to gale, with heavy showers; sun very bright; brief SW SW, strong to gale, perhaps storm later; sea very rough.

High tides and Around Britain tables. High tides table lists times for various locations like London Bridge, Southampton, etc. Around Britain table lists sunrise and sunset times for various regions.

The Solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 16,941 will appear next Saturday. A list of crossword puzzle clues and solutions. Clues include: 1 Party skirt, the last of 12 for teacher (7); 2 He tells stories gunners pore over? True, oddly enough (9); 3 Scene of conflict for Quoate's old desire (5); 4 Electoral system incorporated way to return to royal estate (9); 5 Paris's alternative name for Nesley (9); 6 Of ancient Scandinavia, and not Kent (5); 7 Fancy a few drink outside Gravesend? (5); 8 Former University banner, unusually high-spirited (9); 9 One cross cut turns out to be bitterly ironic (9); 10 It's common with many in the old grove (5); 21 Crooked, like a big garden centre (5); 23 Cut game and eat economically here (4-5); 25 Boldness of a sound novelist and poet (9); 26 Unfamiliar language is no good in oil return (5); 27 Detail for consideration (7); 28 New ode is about church - o bishop's responsibility (7).

The pound table showing exchange rates for various currencies like Australia, Belgium, Canada, etc.

Portfolio Three Portfolio rules are as follows: 1 The Portfolio is a unit purchase of The Times is not a condition of taking part. 2 Times Portfolio list comprises a group of public companies whose shares are listed on the Stock Exchange and quoted in The Times Share Index. The companies comprising the list will change from time to time. The list is divided into four groups of ten shares (1-10, 11-20, 21-30 and 31-40) and every Portfolio card contains two numbers from each group. 3 Times Portfolio 'dividend' will be the figure in pence which represents the optimum investment in pence. The largest increase or lowest loss of a combination of eight two from each group of the 40 shares which on any day, according to The Times Portfolio. 4 The daily dividend will be announced each Monday in The Times. 5 Times Portfolio card and details of the day's dividend are available for inspection at the offices of The Times. 6 If the overall price movement of more than one share in the Portfolio is such that the price will be equally divided among the shareholders holding those combinations of 8. 7 All claims are subject to scrutiny before payment. Any Times Portfolio card that is damaged, lost or destroyed must be replaced by the cardholder. 8 Employees of News International plc and its subsidiaries and of Barclay's Group Limited (brokers and distributors of the card) or members of their immediate families are not eligible to take part. 9 All participants will be subject to these Rules. All instructions on 'how to play' and 'how to claim' will be included in The Times or in The Times Portfolio cards will be deemed to be part of these Rules. 10 In any dispute, The Editor's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 11 If for any reason The Times Prize Page is not published in the normal way Times Portfolio will be suspended for that day. 12 How to play - Daily dividend: On each day's year-end list of 40 numbers will represent commercial and industrial shares as before.

Highest and lowest Yesterday: Highest day temp: Newcastle, 11C (52F); lowest: day temp: Newcastle, 1C (34F). Wind: light to fresh, backing SW, strong to gale; sea moderate to rough, strong to gale, with heavy showers; sun very bright; brief SW SW, strong to gale, perhaps storm later; sea very rough.

London table showing highest and lowest temperatures and wind directions for various locations.

Abroad table showing exchange rates for various countries like Canada, France, Germany, etc.